

A. H. R. 1864

FAMILY WORSHIP
MORNING

Francis

FAMILY WORSHIP.

THE FIRST PART.

THE SECOND PART.

THE THIRD PART.

THE FOURTH PART.

NEW YORK:
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1856.

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THOMAS B. SMITH,
216 William Street.



56, 573

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WHO HAVE GIVEN

THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THE PRODUCTION

OF

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Clark, Alex., A.M. Inverness.
Clark, Thomas, Methven.
Clagston, William, Forfar.
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Guthrie, Thomas, Edinburgh.
Graham, J., D.D. Killearn.
Hay, J. K., Edinburgh.
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Henderson, J., D.D. Glasgow.
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Lewis, James, Leith.
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Mather, William, Stanley.
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Montgomery, T., Sanquhar.
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Morren, N., A.M. Greenock.
Muirhead, G., D.D. Cramond.
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Munro, James, Rutherglen.
Murray, John, Aberdeen.
Murray, John, Dunbog.
Napier, Peter, Glasgow.
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Noble, John, A.M. Fodderty.
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Park, John, Liverpool.
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Paterson, N., D.D. Glasgow.
- Paterson, Alex., Glasgow**
Paton, Robert, Straiton.
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Paul, William, Banchoy.
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Ralph, H., LL.D. Liverpool.
Reid, Alexander, Portsoy.
Robertson, James, Ellon.
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Rose, Lewis, A.M. Glasgow.
Roxburgh, John, Dundee.
Russel, J., LL.D. Dalsersf.
Shanks, Robert, Buckie.
Simpson, David, Aberdeen.
Simpson, Robert, Kintore.
Smith, Robert, D.D. Montrose.
Smith, J., Wellpark, Glasgow.
Smith, James, Chalmers's Church.
Smyth, John, D.D. Glasgow.
Spence, Alexander, Aberdeen.
Steen, Geo., Newtonlimavady.
Stevenson, William, Arbroath.
Stevenson, J., A.M. Newton-on-Ayr
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Stewart, Harry, Oathlaw.
Stewart, R., D.D. Broughshane.
Stewart, J., Wallacetown, Ayr.
Strong, David, Kilmarnock.
Thomson, Charles, Wick.
Thomson, John, Dysart.
Thomson, John, Yester.
Thomson, J. W., Monedie.
Thomson, Peter, Dumfries.
Thomson, Wm., Old Monkland.
Thorburn, Joseph, Forglen.
Topp, A., Elgin.
Turner, Alexander, Glasgow.
Tweedie, W. K., Aberdeen.
Wallace, J. A., Hawick.
Watson, Charles, D.D. late of Bruntisland.
Whyte, Alexander, A.M. Fettercairn.
Whyte, James, A.M. Methlick.
Wightman, J., D.D. Kirkmahoe.
Wilson, William, Carmylie.
Wood, J. J., A.M. Edinburgh.

PUBLISHERS' PREFACE

TO THE SCOTCH EDITION.

THIS work originated in the suggestion of several pious and highly talented individuals, that an attempt should be made to promote the important duty of Family Worship, and to aid in its revival where it has unhappily fallen into neglect, by placing in the hands of the community what may be termed a model book, embracing so great a variety of examples, as to avoid the monotony of a single form of prayer, and suited, by its extensive and comprehensive application, to the varied wants and circumstances of man. It was ultimately determined that the plan of the work should include—the selection of a portion of scripture for every morning and evening throughout the year, and a prayer for every morning and evening, adapted to the circumstances of the entire household, and based upon the portion of holy writ recommended to be read. The passage of scripture must be read from the Bible itself, that it may be always in the hands of the family. This plan met the approbation of all the ministers of the Church of Scotland to whom it was submitted; and from this learned and pious body of men, no fewer than one hundred and eighty individuals were selected as contributors to the work. It has been altogether a labor of love on their part; and the varied talent and devotional spirit so conspicuous throughout the FAMILY WORSHIP, attest the Christian zeal with which they have performed their respective parts. This work, it is believed, will long remain a valuable and delightful record of *their* piety and usefulness; and will, in after times, serve to stimulate the laborers in the Lord's vineyard to that exemplary discharge of the ministerial duty which so eminently distinguishes the clergymen of the Church of Scotland in the present day.

The entire superintendance of the work was confided to the Rev. James Gibson, A.M., of Glasgow; and the proprietors are deeply sensible of the advantages that have accrued to the publication from his talent and untiring assiduity. To this gentleman, and to the numerous contributors, the publishers offer their respectful thanks.

GLASGOW.



EDITOR'S PREFACE.

OUR labors in editing this work have now been brought to a close ; and we can look back on the occasional hours spent in them with unmingled satisfaction. The object of the work has been to aid and promote the duty of Family Worship ; a duty alike commended by its essential interest and importance, and dictated by the principles of Scripture and even the feelings of natural religion, a duty whose decay or revival is always coincident with the revival or decay of vital religion itself. It is usually understood to consist in praise and prayer, and reading of the Word of God. It has its foundation in our dependence on God for all the blessings and comforts of our being, and our duty to praise and obey the Author of them all. Prayer is the natural expression of a dependent being, and is especially the duty and the privilege of man, sinful, weak, ignorant, subject to many trials and miseries, and born for eternity.

The very same principles and circumstances that make it a duty and a privilege in an individual to pray to God, make it incumbent upon a family. Nay, the family relation strengthens the feelings and obligations of prayer, multiplies the inducements and combines them into one united interest of deeper and more tender intensity. The very existence of one Great Father of the universe, implies, that the common and united homage of all creation is his due. 'Of him, and to him, and through him, are all things.' All beings and all combinations of being must look up to him who is the great centre and source of their existence, and their joy. Especially is it most reasonable and natural that this should be the case in the closest, most intimate, and endearing of all social relations,—that of the family. Here there is a clear and a felt community of wants, difficulties, trials, and enjoyments, in which every member feels and sympathizes, as intensely as in his own individual concerns ; even with an intensity increased in proportion to the number of individuals of whom it is composed. Every morning and every evening they have the same common blessings to acknowledge, the same sins to be confessed and forgiven, the same natures to be renewed and sanctified, and the same hopes to cherish. They need protection from the same dan-

gers ; they have the same consolations to seek, the same trials and afflictions to endure ; they are journeying together to the same home ; they hope to die in each other's presence, or if scattered in the providence of God for a time, they hope to meet together at last,—a family in heaven. Having one God and Father, one faith, one Lord, one baptism, and one hope of eternal life, nothing can be more reasonably suitable and delightful than to meet together round the same family altar, morning and evening, to commit their way to God.

Family Worship has many great and obvious advantages. Besides the all-important benefits of a directly religious kind, in promoting piety and drawing down the blessing of God, and of him who both promised his presence to two or three meeting together and asking anything in his name, it promotes order, regularity, and propriety of behavior in a household. The very submission to the God of all, which it expresses and cherishes, promotes the spirit of submission and obedience in the family. It checks unseasonable levity, rebukes disorder, quarrelling, or unruly passions, which cannot consist with family devotion. Either the one or the other must cease. It invests the parent and master with the most venerable of all characters,—that of a servant of God ; and where the natural affection of parents and children, and the proper kindness on the one hand, and respect on the other, of masters and servants, are hallowed and deepened by the benign and solemn feelings of religion, love, peace, and obedience will reign through the family. The principles and examples of Scripture entirely harmonize with these views. We do not expect to find particular precepts on this head ; because, as we have seen, the reasons that enforce prayer on a man as an individual, enforce it on him in all his relations ; and it is worthy of remark, that all God's commands are addressed to him as an individual ;—“ *Thou* shalt, or shalt not” do this or that, binding on him everywhere and at every time. Wherever there are social blessings and duties, social prayer to God is due. But we may expect examples of these principles in the Scriptures ; and accordingly there are many. Thus Abraham was commended for his observance of family religion, and that too in connection with the promise, that in him all the *families* of the earth should be blessed, Gen. xviii. 19. Eli was punished for not religiously training and ruling his family. Joshua resolved, that as for him and his house, he would serve the Lord. Job was in the constant practice of family religion ; David, Daniel, and others. Our Lord and his apostles joined in domestic prayer ; and that inimitably beautiful and comprehensive form of prayer dictated by our Lord, is a social or family prayer, and that on the principles we have above laid down.

Many difficulties are plead as an apology for neglecting this duty ; especially, some plead that they cannot overcome their natural reluctance and timidity to engage in prayer in the presence of others. We cannot attach much importance to this as a reason for neglecting the duty ; though we doubt not it prevails to a great extent. It is therefore highly necessary to remove it. With such a form as this in his possession, no one may plead

such an apology. There is in this work ample matter and variety as a help to beginners; and even what may be very useful to stir up devotion, and supply varied expression to the more experienced Christian. It is with this view and not to supersede the practice of extempore prayer, that this work has been projected; and both publishers and contributors would deeply regret if this were the result. They believe, on the other hand, that it will greatly tend to furnish such matter and expression for prayer, as will soon enable any one who devoutly uses it to dispense with forms altogether.

There is, however, in this country, what we cannot but consider a very unreasonable prejudice against the use of forms in all circumstances. It has arisen from the fearful evils and abuses arising out of the shameless and idolatrous forms of Popery, mumbled over by a lazy and corrupt priesthood, without feeling, and almost without decency; succeeded by the cruel and insane attempts to force upon a reluctant people, forms containing sentiments and rites which they abhorred. Yet it is a well-known fact, that our early reformers prepared and used forms in the worship of God, and the sentiments of our forefathers on this head may be gathered from the following passage in the Directory for Family Worship, usually bound up with the Confession of Faith of the Church of Scotland, and containing many wise and excellent directions:—

“So many as can conceive prayer, ought to make use of that gift of God; albeit, those who are rude and weaker may begin at a set form of prayer, but so as they be not sluggish in stirring up in themselves (according to their daily necessities) the spirit of prayer, which is given to all the children of God in some measure,” &c.

We need not refer to the form left by our Lord as an example of such a practice; where his disciples were taught to “say” the same words. Indeed, what are all the passages of Scripture usually adopted in extempore prayer? what are the apostolic benedictions, but forms of prayers? We every day more and more admire the wisdom and piety of our forefathers, who permitted them when necessary, while they did not encourage them where they can be dispensed with. We greatly venerate the practices of our Church, and the habits they have cherished among our people. We are persuaded that it is highly advantageous, in order to keep alive the spirit of devotion, to leave the mind unfettered by fixed forms; and that there are times and circumstances in the providential and spiritual history of a pious soul and a pious family, for which no previous foresight can provide suitable expression at a throne of grace, and which will overflow all the artificial channels previously prepared. In such cases it would be most improper that the spirit should not be left to its free and unfettered exercise.

Having such views, we, with many others, hailed the present attempt of the enterprising publishers of this work with much satisfaction. The Christian world is deeply indebted to them for the extensive circulation of many religious works of the most useful kind; and which have been of great service in reviving and promoting religion in districts of the country where it had

fallen low. We have occasion to know, that the present undertaking has been a valuable treasure to many, and especially to families with females at their head ; or where the usual head of the family has been absent or unqualified from sickness or inability. We have had high satisfaction in superintending the publication of a work, which, from the great success it has already attained, promises, by the blessing of God, to be extensively useful to generations yet to come. May God be pleased to vouchsafe his Holy Spirit to crown this anticipation with an abundant increase in the fruits of righteousness, which are, by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God Amen.

LIST OF THE CONTRIBUTORS

TO

FAMILY WORSHIP.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|
| FIRST WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | The Rev. John Smyth, D.D., | Glasgow |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Nathaniel Paterson, D.D., | do. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — James Henderson, D.D., | do. |
| Saturday, | | |
| SECOND WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath, | — James Forbes, D.D., | do. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — John G. Lorimer, | do. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — Thomas Brown, D.D., | do. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Patrick Fairbairn, | do. |
| THIRD WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — J. C. Fowler, A.M., | do. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Alex. Turner, | do. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Alex. Gibson, | do. |
| Saturday, | | |
| FOURTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath, | — Patrick Macfarlane, D.D., | Greenock. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — William Dunn, | Cardross. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — Lewis Rose, | Glasgow. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — A. M. Brown, A.M., | Morpeth. |
| FIFTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Charles Watson, D.D., late of Burntisland. | |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — James Gibson, A.M., | Glasgow. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — George Cupples, | Stirling. |
| Saturday, | | |
| SIXTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath, | — Archibald Bennie, | Edinburgh. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — William Cunningham, | do. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — J. Julius Wood, A.M., | do. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — John Paul, | do. |
| SEVENTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — John Clark, A.M., | do. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Robert Jamieson, | Currie. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — P. Booth, A.M., | Inverleithen. |
| Saturday, | — James Gibson, A.M., | Glasgow. |
| EIGHTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Principal Macfarlan, | do. |
| Tuesday, | — Robert Lee, A.M., | Campsie. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — Robert Burns, D.D., | Paisley. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — James Monro, | Rutherglen. |
| NINTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — A. Nisbet, | Glasgow. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — James Foote, A.M., | Aberdeen. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Robert Buchanan, | Glasgow. |
| Saturday, | | |
| TENTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath, | — William Nixon, | Montrose. |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Monday and Tuesday, | The Rev. Robert Paisley, | Patrick. |
| Wednesday and Thursday | — P. Napier, | Glasgow. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — H. Duncan, D.D., | Ruthwell. |
| ELEVENTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Robert Shanks, | Buckie. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — E. McKenzie, | Bo'ness. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Robert Lee, A.M., | Campsie. |
| Saturday, | | |
| TWELFTH WEEK. | — William Burns, | Kilsyth. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — Allan McNaughton, D.D., | Kilbride, Arran. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — William Black, D.D., | Barony, Glasgow. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Alexander Gray, D.D., | Kincardine, West. |
| THIRTEENTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Nathaniel N. Morren, A. M., | Greenock. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Hamilton Buchanan, | Strathblane. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — William Thomson, | Old Monkland. |
| Saturday, | | |
| FOURTEENTH WEEK. | — James Brewster, D.D., | Craig. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — W. K. Tweedie, | Aberdeen. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — James Glen, A.M., | Benholmie. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — William Paul, | Nether Banchory |
| FIFTEENTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — David Simpson, | Aberdeen. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Robert Simpson, | Kintore. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — George Muirhead, D.D., | Cramond. |
| Saturday, | | |
| SIXTEENTH WEEK. | — David Arnot, | Dundee. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — David Davidson, | Broughty-Ferry. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — William Clugston, | Forfar. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — William Nicholson, | Ferry-Port-on-Craig |
| SEVENTEENTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — R. M. McCheyne, | Dundee. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — William Stevenson, | Arbroath. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — William Wilson, | Carmylie. |
| Saturday, | | |
| EIGHTEENTH WEEK. | — James Macbeth, | Arbroath. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — John Roxburgh, | Dundee. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — James Grierson, | Errol. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — William McKay, D.D., | Dunoon. |
| NINETEENTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — George Lewis, | Dundee. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Thomas Duncan, | Kirkintilloch. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Robert M'Nair, | Paisley. |
| Saturday, | | |
| TWENTIETH WEEK. | — J. J. Bonar, | Greenock. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — R. Buchan, | Hamilton. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — P. H. Keith, | do. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Thomas Clark, | Methven. |
| TWENTY-FIRST WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — James K. Hay, | Edinburgh. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — David Brown, | Roslin. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — John Henderson, | Carmunnock. |
| Saturday, | — James Brodie, | Monnimaill. |
| TWENTY-SECOND WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath, | — Daniel Cameron, | Glasgow. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — John Murray, | Dunbog. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — James Smith, | Glasgow. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Alexander Lochore, A.M., | Drymen. |
| TWENTY-THIRD WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Andrew Gray, | Perth. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — James Barr, D.D., | Port-Glasgow. |

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Thursday and Friday, | The Rev. Alexander Duncan, | Ooylton. |
| Saturday, | | |
| TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK. } | — Robert Forbes, | Woodside. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — J. Noble, A.M., | St. Maddoes. |
| Wednesday, | — Thomas Brown, | Kineff. |
| Thursday, | — James Smith, | Glasgow. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — James Lumsden, | Barry. |
| TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Robert Smith, D.D., | Montrose. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — A. L. Gordon, | Aberdeen. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Alexander Philip, | Cruden. |
| Saturday, | | |
| TWENTY-SIXTH WEEK. } | — Alexander Reid, | Portsoy. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — Alexander Spence, | Aberdeen. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — J. T. Patterson, D.D., | Sunderland. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Gordon Mitchell, A. M., | Kilmadock. |
| TWENTY-SEVENTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — M. Leishman, | Govan. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — John Russell, LL.D., | Dalserf. |
| Thursday, | — A. L. R. Foote, | Brechin |
| Friday, | — James M'Cosk, | do. |
| Saturday, | | |
| TWENTY-EIGHTH WEEK. } | — A. T. Patterson, | Glasgow. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — T. Montgomery, | Sanquhar. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — Hugh Ralph, LL.D., | Liverpool. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — John Park, | do. |
| TWENTY-NINTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — James Lewis, | Leith. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — H. Cook, D.D., LL.D., | Belfast. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — James Morgan, | do. |
| Saturday, | | |
| THIRTIETH WEEK. } | — R. Stewart, | Broughshane. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — James Denham, | Londonderry. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — W. M'Clure, | do. |
| Friday Morning, | — G. Steen, | Newtownlimavady |
| Friday Evening, | — James Smith, | Glasgow. |
| Saturday Morning, | — G. Steen, | Newtownlimavady. |
| Saturday Evening, | — James Smith, | Glasgow. |
| THIRTY-FIRST WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — R. M'Pherson, | Inverness. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Alexander Munro, | Manchester. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Hugh Campbell, | do. |
| Saturday, | | |
| THIRTY-SECOND WEEK. } | — James Whyte, | Methlick. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — James Drummond, | Forgandenny. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — C. C. Stewart, | Aberdalgie. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — John W. Thomson, | Monedie. |
| THIRTY-THIRD WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — James M'Laggan, | Kuifauns. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — William Mather, M.A., | Stanley. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Alexander Cumming, | Bridge of Earn. |
| Saturday, | | |
| THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK. } | — Alexander Whyte, | Fettercairn. |
| Sabbath, | | |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — James Stevenson, M.A., | Newton, Ayr. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — A. Gentle, | Alves. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Professor Brown, | Aberdeen. |
| THIRTY-FIFTH WEEK. | | |
| Sabbath and Monday, | — George R. Davidson, | Drumblade. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Joseph Thorburn, | Forglen. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — A. S. Patterson, | Hutchesontown. |
| Saturday, | — John Laird, | Inverkeilor. |

THIRTY-SIXTH WEEK.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Sabbath, | The Rev. John Laird, | Inverkeilor. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | — James Stewart, | Wallacetown, Ayr. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — David Strong, | Kilmarnock |
| Friday and Saturday, | — T. Doig, | Torryburn. |

THIRTY-SEVENTH WEEK.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Sabbath and Monday, | — David Henry, | Marnoch. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — William Gelston, | Carnock. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Charles Thomson, | Northshields. |
| Saturday, | | |

THIRTY-EIGHTH WEEK.

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Sabbath, | } — James Smith, | Glasgow. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | | — David Landsborough, |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — John Bryce, | Ardrrossan. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Robert Brydon, | Dunscore. |

THIRTY-NINTH WEEK.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Robert Crawford, | Kirkpatrick-Irongray |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Alexander Clark, A.M., | Inverness. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Matthew Gardiner, D.D., | Bothwell. |
| Saturday, | — Robert Paton, | Straiton. |

FORTIETH WEEK.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Profes-or Hill, D.D., | College, Glasgow. |
| Tuesday, | — Robert Paton, | Straiton. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — A. Topp, | Elgin. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Peter Lorimer, | London. |

FORTY-FIRST WEEK.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Peter M'Moreland, | Glasgow. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Dr. Lorimer, | Haddington. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — John Thomson, | Yester. |
| Saturday, | | |

FORTY-SECOND WEEK.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Sabbath, | } — Henry Stewart, | Oathlaw |
| Monday and Tuesday, | | — Dr. M'Kellar, |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — Mr. Bannerman, | Ormiston. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Thomas Guthrie, | Edinburgh. |

FORTY-THIRD WEEK.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Sabbath and Monday Morning, | — Dr. Clason, | do. |
| Monday Evening, | — A. S. Paterson, | Glasgow. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — James Begg, | Libberton. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Alexander Flyter, | Alness. |
| Saturday, | | |

FORTY-FOURTH WEEK.

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sabbath, | } — John Graham, D.D., | Killearn. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | | — Alexander Rose, D.D., |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — John Grant, | Petty. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — J. Noble, A.M., | Fodderty. |

FORTY-FIFTH WEEK.

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sabbath, | — David Menzies, A.M., | Glasgow. |
| Monday, | — James Smith, | do. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — George J. Duncan, | Kirkpatrick-Durham. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — John Thomson, | Dysart. |
| Saturday, | | |

FORTY-SIXTH WEEK.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sabbath, | } — Thomas T. Duncan, M.D., | Dumfries. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | | — Professor Fleming, D.D., |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — James C. Burns, | London. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — Peter Thomson, | Dumfries. |

FORTY-SEVENTH WEEK.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Sabbath and Monday, | — John Murray, | Aberdeen. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — Alexander D. Davidson, | do. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — James Smith, | Glasgow. |
| Saturday, | | |

FORTY-EIGHTH WEEK.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Sabbath, | } — James Robertson, | Ellon. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | | — John Manson. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — A. Anderson, | Boindie. |
| Friday and Saturday, | — George Middleton | Strathmiglo. |

FORTY-NINTH WEEK.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Robert Jeffray, | Girthing. |
| Tuesday and Wednesday, | — J. M. McCulloch, | Kelso. |
| Thursday and Friday, | — Robert Craig, | Rothsay. |
| Saturday, | | |

FIFTIETH WEEK.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| Sabbath, | } | — John M'Farlane, | Colessie |
| Monday and Tuesday, | | — John Allan, | Aberdeen. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | | — J. Bryce, | do. |
| Friday and Saturday, | | — James M'Kinlay, D.D., | Kilmarnock. |

FIFTY-FIRST WEEK.

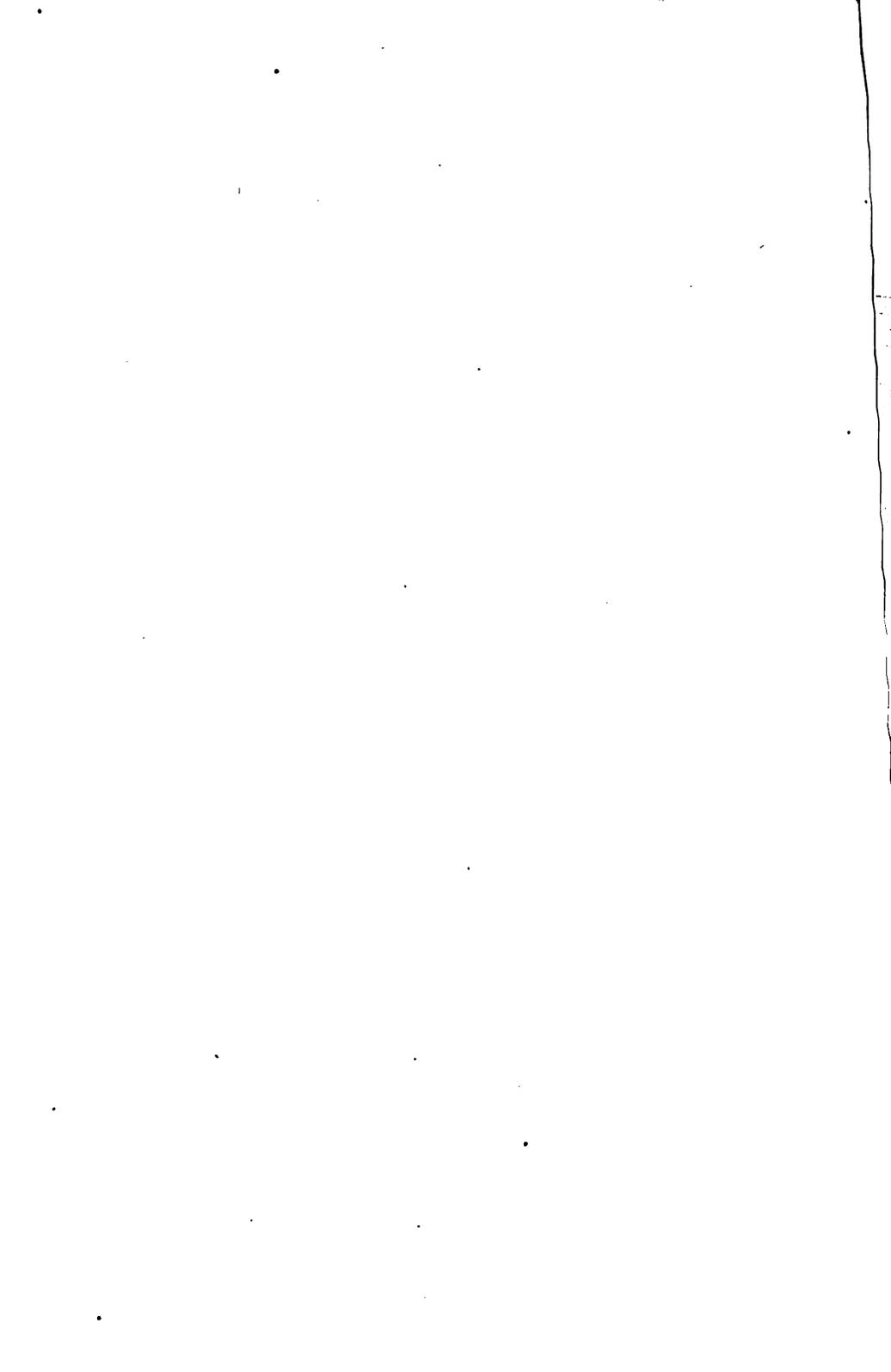
| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Sabbath and Monday, | — Robert M'Donald, | Blairgowrie. |
| Tuesday, | — Dr. Wightman, | Kirkmahoe. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | — Andrew Hutchison, | Warrenford. |
| Friday, | — James Smith, | Glasgow. |
| Saturday, | | |

FIFTY-SECOND WEEK.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|------------|
| Sabbath, | } | — James Wallace, | Hawick. |
| Monday and Tuesday, | | — Adam Forman, A.M., | Innerwick. |
| Wednesday and Thursday, | | — W. McCrae, | Stirling. |
| Friday and Saturday, | | — W. Arnot | Glasgow. |

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PASTORAL LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND, ON FAMILY WORSHIP.*

[The Publishers consider that they cannot more appropriately commence their Work on FAMILY WORSHIP, than by prefixing the GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PASTORAL LETTER to the PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND, on the same subject, in which the duties and privileges of domestic worship are most strongly recommended and enforced.]

THE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, To our dearly beloved People: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord.

On your behalf, brethren, we thank God, whom we serve with our spirit in the Gospel of His Son, that your faith and devotion have long been spoken of throughout the world; and we are bound always to have remembrance of you in our prayers night and day, greatly desiring that, like your forefathers in times of clearest light, you may continue steadfastly in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, abounding in the exercises of that unfeigned godliness, which is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

In compliance with the solicitations of many who watch for your souls, and are jealous over you with godly jealousy, we have resolved to issue this brotherly exhortation on the sacred and indispensable duty of Family Worship,—not as if we had any recent ground for apprehending that it is likely to fall into more extensive neglect, but because we know too well that it is by no means universally practised, and because even the purest minds require to be stirred up, by way of remembrance, that, while they hold fast the profession of their own faith without wavering, they may consider one another to provoke and encourage, by good counsel and good example, to the love of truth and holiness, and to the habitual and serious observance of those offices of piety, whereby, as surely as the body is nourished and refreshed by its daily bread and its nightly rest, the soul of man, through the nurture and admonition of the Lord, is progressively matured in excellence and strength, till it is advanced to the perfection and glory of its immortal existence.

In calling your attention to this momentous topic, we think it superfluous to enlarge on the high obligations by which the duty is enforced,—obligations which are involved in the very constitution of our frail and dependent being, and impressed on the understanding and the heart by the persuasive voice of Scriptural authority, opening the ears of men, and sealing the instruction, by which God speaketh, not once or twice, but at sundry times, and in divers manners, adding line upon line, precept upon precept, promise upon promise, and threatening upon threatening, so as to bring perpetually to remembrance

* *Elinburgh, May 30, 1836.*—The General Assembly having considered and approved the Overtures recommending a renewed Admonition for the purpose of stirring up the people of this land to the faithful and regular observance of the Worship of God in their Families, did, and hereby do, require the following Pastoral Letter to be read by all the Ministers of this Church, from their several pulpits, on the first convenient Lord's Day after it shall come into their hands.—JOHN LEE, *Cl. Ecol. Scot*

both the blessings which are multiplied to them that fear the Lord, and the fury which is poured out on the families which call not on his name. The appointment of the reasonable service of bowing down at the domestic altar before the Lord our Maker, that, in waiting for the promised effusion of the Spirit of grace and supplications, we may be filled with the fruits of righteousness, has ever been regarded by all men of sound mind and Christian experience, not as the imposition of an irksome yoke, but as the conveyance of an inestimable privilege; for as often as we mark the tokens of God's power and presence in making the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice, must every enlightened and purified heart, lifting up its affections to the Father of Spirits, acknowledge, with triumphant satisfaction, that it is a good thing to show forth His loving-kindness in the morning, and His faithfulness every night.

To those only who have tasted and seen it, can we speak intelligibly of the tranquil delight which is awakened and sustained by such periodical acts of household worship, as are not a mere formal ceremony in which the members join with reluctance or cold compliance, but the fervent utterance of sighs, which, out of the abundance of the heart, in which the love of God is shed abroad, are, by the influence of that unquenchable affection, most pleasingly constrained to celebrate the mercies which are new every morning, and to offer up the spiritual incense of prayer with as unceasing regularity, as from the sanctuary of Israel the smoke of the evening sacrifice arose, or as the early dew of Hermon descended on the mountains of Sion, when there the Lord commanded the blessing—even life for evermore.

Without all controversy, the benefits produced by this hallowed exercise are ineffably precious. It is not enough to say that thus are devout and grateful emotions awakened,—thus is faith in the superintending providence and holy promises of God confirmed,—thus are the graces of humility, resignation, and patience, nourished and increased, while, with the contemplation of the infinite excellence, the unwearied beneficence, and the everlasting strength of the Lord Jehovah, we contrast the instability, deceitfulness, and desperate wickedness of the heart of man. By the infallible testimony of Heaven, we are authorized to affirm constantly that there is an efficacy in the prayer of faith, which, though inexplicable by our feeble understandings, must, through all ages, continue to avail as much as it did in the days of those patriarchs, prophets, and righteous men, who, as princes, had power with God, when, receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, they had grace to serve him acceptably with reverence and godly fear. The Lord is ever nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit, when, taking with them the words which inspired wisdom has taught them to utter, they lift up their desires at His footstool, not seeking great things for themselves, or panting after the dust of the earth, or sighing for the vain delights of the sons of men, but thirsting and longing for the blessedness of the man whose transgression is forgiven, and who, being justified by faith, has peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have no encouragement to hope that, by taking thought for temporal satisfactions, we shall find grace in the sight of the Lord; but if we aspire after the best gifts which are the heritage of the faithful, seeking first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, we believe, and are sure, that His Divine power will give us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue. Though our Father in the heavens knoweth what things we have need of before we ask them, and though the purposes of His everlasting kindness are often fulfilled more substantially by withholding than by granting the desires which we naturally cherish, it is only to

them who worship Him in spirit and in truth, that He has promised to do exceeding abundantly above all that they ask or think; and we have no more solid ground to expect that we shall receive without asking, or that we shall find without seeking, than the husbandman has to look for an abundant harvest springing up in the fields which he has neither planted nor watered, or than the merchant has to calculate on receiving his own with usury, for the talent which has been tied up in a napkin, or buried in the earth.

It is not for us to unfold the laws of the spiritual world, or to demonstrate why and how it is that the communications of heavenly influence and favor are in any degree suspended on the frequency and fervency of our supplications. But this we know, that, as in old time, the father of the faithful commanded his children, and his household after him, to unite with him in the exercises of a holy life, that the Lord might bring upon Abraham that which he had spoken of him,—even so, in all generations, may the willing and obedient hope, that, while seeking unto God, and committing their cause to Him who doeth great things and unsearchable, they place their confidence, not in their own importunity, or their own efforts; but in the exalted merit and prevalent intercession of the Mediator of the New Covenant, they cannot fail to be made partakers of that abundant grace which ought to be the chief object of all our prayers, and which is never denied to the humble. We know assuredly that our heavenly Father giveth his Holy Spirit to them who ask Him; and if, for the sake of His beloved Son, He is pleased to bestow this unspeakable gift in answer to the prayer of the believing soul, why should we hesitate to admit that it is of the Lord's mercies, that, by the eternal ordination of Divine wisdom, prayer has been rendered one of the sure and sufficient means of transmitting to the faithful every other good and perfect gift which cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning?

To the duties of social prayer and thanksgiving, accompanied with that instruction in righteousness which the reading of the Scriptures is calculated to impart, let the benefits thus conferred on your several domestic circles operate as a strong incitement. It is not, indeed, within the compass of human ability to infuse grace into the souls which are most tenderly beloved. But great will probably be the influence of a pious example on those who confide in your affection, and have cause to revere your worth. If your children and dependents perceive, that, while you are not slothful in the business of time, you are also fervent in spirit serving the Lord, and that, while you provide for your own the food and the raiment which are obtained by the blessing of God on the hand of the diligent, you ask for them that bread of heaven which strengtheneth the heart, may you not hope that they will be stirred up both to pray and to labor for the meat which endureth to life everlasting, and that they will learn to regard the favor of God as a better portion than the abundance of corn and wine? May you not hope, that while your own minds are elevated by contemplating the works of creation, providence, and redemption, and by reflecting on the dignified and endearing relation to which you have been raised in having 'received the Spirit of adoption, whereby you cry, Abba, Father,' they who look up to you for guidance and protection will take pleasure in approaching to God, and, through the experience of the peace of walking with the wise, will be taught to abhor the enticements of sinners, and to hold fast that which is good? And even in the case of those who, through perversity of heart, and the snares of an evil world, have forsaken the path of integrity and truth, may it not be hoped that the wise counsels which they have for a season forgotten, and the devotional habits which they have long failed to imitate, will, like the bread cast

upon the waters, be found after many days? Small must have been your experience of the discipline of providence, if you have never known so much as one who had wandered so far from the way of peace as to disappoint the earnest expectations of his father, and to turn the joy of her who bare him into bitterness, but who, after his own wickedness had corrected him, and his backslidings reprov'd him, has been awakened to new obedience, by recalling to his agonized mind, with reverential awe, the solemn image of the parental guide, in whose quiet habitation the daily exercises of prayer and praise hallowed every pursuit, lightened every care, soothed every sorrow, and seasoned every enjoyment, so as to render the voice of rejoicing and salvation in the tabernacles of the righteous, a lively type of the blessed conversation of heaven, and a delicious foretaste of the fellowship of the saints in light.

If you know these things by your own experience, or by the incontrovertible testimony of them who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, happy are ye if ye do them. Nor can you have peace and safety if, knowing what is good, you leave it undone.

And while you present your supplications for yourselves and your families, forget not the eternal concerns of the families which call not on the name of God. If it be, as it ought to be, your heart's desire, that they may be brought to the obedience of the gospel, brethren, pray for us, and for all the ministers of the truth, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, even as it is with you. Such an intercession as this will assuredly prove efficacious towards the enlargement of the household of faith, if all of you, both small and great, not only in the congregations of the upright, who in heaviness of heart sigh for the abounding of iniquity and the failing of truth, but in your families apart, and in your unseen retirements, prostrate yourselves at the footstool of your Father in heaven, who seeth in secret, and pour out your desires before Him in that effectual, fervent importunity which, like the long and patient waiting of the husbandman for the precious fruit of the earth, will according to the sure word of promise, issue in plenteous showers of blessings, not confined to any favored spot, or any privileged community, but dropping down fertility far and wide over fields co-extensive with the inhabited world, filled as it shall be in that evening-time of light with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea: and thus the God of the whole earth, in remembrance of His holy covenant, and in fulfilment of the good pleasure of His goodness, will arise and have mercy not only on the mountain of holiness in which He had His dwelling in time past, but on all in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord; so that, while He clothes His priests with salvation, and makes His people shout for joy, the ways of Zion, which have mourned because few came to the solemn feasts, shall be thronged with the multitudes who keep the holy day with thanksgiving in their hearts, and the high praises of God in their mouths,—wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of those times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, when His work shall appear before the face of His servants, and His glory to their children; and they that fear the Lord, being all replenished with the riches of grace, shall take that sweet counsel together which revives the inward part, and knits the brotherhood of Christians in the unity of the faith and the holy bond of perfectness. 'Then shall the offering of His people be pleasant unto the Lord as in the days of old, and as in former years.' 'And the Lord will create upon every dwelling-place of Mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for upon all the glory shall be a defence.'

FAMILY WORSHIP.

First Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS I AND II.

PRAISE waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion, and unto thee shall the vow be performed. We are altogether unworthy to appear before thee, thou Holy One of Israel. In thy sight, O Lord, we are all as an unclean thing, and our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Enable us to draw nigh at this time unto thee, in the all-prevailing name of our only Mediator, Jesus Christ the righteous. For his sake, pardon our iniquity, which is very great. Receive us graciously, love us freely. Put thy Holy Spirit within us, that we may never walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. It is of thy mercy that we have not followed a multitude to do evil, and this day we would bless thy name for the institution of the Christian Sabbath. May we be enabled to commemorate with humility and thankfulness, the finished works of creation and redemption. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. May we rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Be pleased, O Lord, to send forth thy light and thy truth: let them lead us, let them bring us unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. May our delight be in the law of the Lord: and in thy law may we be disposed to meditate all the day. Sanctify us through thy truth; thy word is truth. Make us fruitful in every good word and work. Make us as trees planted by the rivers of water, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

Bless to us, O Lord, for these and all other holy purposes, the reading of thy word and the public duties of thy sanctuary. Go with us to the house of prayer, and grant thy heavenly blessings to pastors and people, that whatsoever shall be spoken or heard, may be as it becometh the oracles of God. Suffer not the good seed to be choked, or to be rendered unfruitful by the cares or the vanities of this present evil world.

Thou hast set thy King upon thy holy hill of Zion. May all nations be blessed in Him, and call Him blessed. May the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ. Give thy Son the heathen for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. May the waste places of Zion be rebuilt, and the glory of the Lord arise upon her as in the days of old. Visit, with thy special consolations, the sons and daughters of affliction. Let them receive, O Lord, this day a portion of the children's bread. We render our united thanksgivings for the blessings and privileges of the by-gone week, for the rest of the past night, and for the return of thy holy day. Unworthy of the least of all thy mercies, we cast ourselves on the exceeding riches of thy grace, in Jesus Christ our Lord; in whose words we sum up these our petitions, 'Our Father which art in heaven,' &c.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS III, IV AND V.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God, who hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations, we would cast ourselves, this evening, upon thy wakeful care and grace. Thou causest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over us. We have, this day, experienced thy gracious protection and loving-kindness. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. We beseech thee, O God, to follow with thy richest blessing all the religious duties in which we and others have been engaged. May thy holy word sink deeply into our hearts. Forbid, O Lord, that it should prove to the condemnation of any of us that light is come into the world, but that we love darkness rather than light, because our deeds are evil. May we receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save our souls. Grant that thy Holy Spirit may impart to us spiritual discernment of the truth as it is in Jesus—enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Him—and working in us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure. We beseech thee, good Lord, to forgive the sins and infirmities with which we are all chargeable in the duties of this thy Holy Sabbath. In everything we sin and come greatly short of thy glory. Be merciful, O Lord, to our unrighteousness: and remember not our transgressions against us. Grant that the whole services of the sanctuary on earth may be blessed for preparing us to join in the purer services of the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Lord, increase our faith, deepen our repentance, enlarge and sustain our charity towards all men. May we die daily unto sin, and live unto righteousness. May we stand in awe and sin not. May we commune with our own heart upon our bed in the night watches, and be still. Whatever be thy will concerning us, with respect to the good things of this life, be pleased to put gladness into our hearts; even the gladness of thy nation, that we may rejoice with thine inheritance.

Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us, and give us peace through the peace-speaking blood of the great atonement, and we will both lay ourselves down in peace and sleep : for thou, Lord, only makest us dwell in safety.

O Lord our God, let thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee. Restore thine ancient Israel with the fulness of the Gentile nations. Grant that Pagan idolatry and the power of the man of sin, may be destroyed by the Spirit of the Lord and the word of his testimony. Revive thy work in the midst of the years : in the midst of the years make known : in wrath remember mercy. Bless and prosper thy true church : clothe thy priests with righteousness, and let thy saints shout for joy. Prosper vital religion in our hearts and families. Bless our President, and all in lawful authority. May they be ministers of God to us for good, both spiritual and temporal. Take us, and all near and near to us, under thy divine protection. May we be defended by the Shepherd of Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps. Into thy hands we commend ourselves—that, whether we wake or sleep, we may be the Lord's. Never leave nor forsake us. Be our God and guide, even unto death ; and may we dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Now, unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy ; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

∩ MONDAY MORNING.—GENESIS I.

THOU art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honor, and power ; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are all thy ways, thou King of saints. We adore thee, the former of our bodies, and the Father of our spirits ; in whom we live, and move, and have our being. We humble ourselves in thy presence as sinful dust and ashes. Thou didst create us at first in thine own image, holy, just, and good. Thou hast continually preserved us, and given us all things richly to enjoy. Thou hast caused the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over us. It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail not. Be pleased, O Lord God, to look upon us in the face of thine anointed. May we be found in Him. May we be washed and sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Renouncing all confidence in the flesh, may we glory only in the Lord our Saviour, as made of God unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. It is our prayer, that God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, may shine in our hearts, to give us the light

of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. May the Holy Ghost form us anew in Christ Jesus, unto every good work. May He subdue the remaining enmity of our carnal minds; strengthen us with all might in the inner man; prepare our hearts for every Christian duty, and make us more than conquerors over sin and Satan, death and hell, through Him that loved us and gave himself for us. Be pleased to sanctify to us, O Lord, for these purposes, the services of thy Sabbath, in which we were yesterday engaged. May we retain serious impressions of the things that belong to our present and eternal peace. In our transactions during this week, may we have grace to set the Lord always before us. May a sense of thy presence solemnize our minds. Hold thou up our goings, that our footsteps may not slide. Guide us by thy counsel, and afterwards bring us unto glory.

May thy way, O Lord, be made known upon earth, and thy saving health among all nations. Bless abundantly our native land. Be gracious to all ranks and conditions of men; high and low, old and young: thou art the Maker of them all. Comfort the sons and the daughters of affliction. Visit them in their times of trouble, in the multitude of thy tender mercies, and be thou a very present help. Never leave us, nor forsake us. Be our God and our guide, even unto death; and after death our exceeding great reward. Now, unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the one true God, be glory everlasting. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW I.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God, we beseech thee to pour out upon us, this evening, the spirit of grace and of supplication; that we may worship thee with reverence and godly fear. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working. Unite our hearts in thy blessed service: and grant that our prayers may come up before thee with acceptance, through the all-prevailing merits and intercession of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the righteous, in whom thou art ever well pleased.

Blessed be thy name that unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, through whom we have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Our souls would magnify the Lord: our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour. He that is mighty hath done for us great things, and holy is His name.

We adore thee, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast so loved the world that thou didst give thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Grant, we humbly implore thee, that we may have redemption through his blood—the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of thy mercy. May none of us neglect so great salva-

tion, but may we receive it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, even the chief. Enlighten our minds, heavenly Father, in the knowledge of our guilt and unworthiness. Convince us by thy Holy Spirit of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. May we be deeply humbled in thy sight, because of our numberless and aggravated transgressions. We pray, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we may have our conversation in the world. Deliver us from the love and prevalence of all iniquity; and renew us in the spirit of our minds, by the effectual working of thy mighty power. Cleanse thou us, O Lord our God, from secret faults. Keep back thy servants also from presumptuous sins: let them not have dominion over us. Work in us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure. May our faith in the Lord Jesus who alone can save his people from their sins, be instrumental in purifying our hearts and overcoming the world. Vouchsafe to us thy grace and strength whereby we shall serve thee with all good fidelity, and endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. We unite in thanksgivings to thee, the Father of mercies, for thy protection and loving-kindness towards us this day: and for all the goodness and mercy which thou art ever making to pass before us. May our experience of thy love constrain us to live, not to ourselves, but to him who died for us. O thou Shepherd of Israel, who never slumberest nor sleepest, we commit ourselves anew unto thee this night. Watch over us for good. If it be thy blessed will to spare us in the land of the living, may we awake to praise and honor thee. the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Be very gracious to all our dear friends. Bestow upon them thy richest blessing, even life that shall never end. Have mercy upon Zion. May thy beloved church be edified and comforted in all her borders. May her people be all righteous. Bless her provision, and satisfy her poor with bread. Let thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Sanctify afflictive visitations to all who are under thy chastening hand. May the fruit be unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Hear these, our unworthy supplications, and when thou hearest, forgive and accept for our great Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS II.

O LORD, thou art a spirit, and no man hath seen thee at any time: thou goest by and we see thee not, thou passest on also and we perceive thee not; yet art thou nigh to every one of us, for in thee we live, and move, and have our being. The darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day: thou lookest unto the ends of the earth, and seest under the whole heaven: neither is there any creature that is not manifest in thy sight; but all things are naked

and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Thou knowest our sitting down and our rising up; thou understandest our thoughts afar off, and art intimately acquainted with all our ways. Thou hast preserved us through the silent watches, and brought us unto the light of a new day. We would this day acknowledge thee our Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer; we would seek thy favor, and remember the account that we have to give.

From everlasting to everlasting thou art God, but all flesh is as grass; we all do fade as the leaf: and our iniquities like the wind have carried us away. Thou didst form man of the dust of the ground: thou didst breathe into his nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living soul. Thou madest him after thine own image, and didst crown him with glory and honor. But how is the fine gold become dim? the crown is fallen from our heads: woe is unto us, for we have sinned. Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin? Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but the Lord pondereth the hearts. There is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not. We are guilty, O Lord, and deserve that wrath which is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness and ungodliness of men. We bless thee that thou hast laid our help upon one that is mighty to save. As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. O Lord, let thy Holy Spirit take of the things that are of Christ, and show them to us, that we may know our need of a Saviour, and flee for refuge to the hope set before us in the Gospel. Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief. By a living faith, may we be interested in all the benefits of the Saviour's death; and show, in our renewed hearts and holier lives, the power of his resurrection. Create in us, O God, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Sanctify us through thy truth, that dying daily unto sin, and living unto righteousness, we may grow daily in conformity to thy will, and be prepared to meet our God. May the like mind be in us which was in Christ.

Follow with thy blessing our reading of thy word and our meditations at this time. May we profit by every opening of thy book. Teach us to hallow thy Sabbaths, to reverence thy sanctuary, to wait upon thee in all thy ordinances, that we may renew our strength; and do thou grant us in this and every season of grace refreshing from thy presence. Lord, dwell in this house and family. Never leave us, and never forsake us. In our several places, duties, and relations, may we all have a single eye to thy service, and do all things to thy glory. Shed abroad thy love in our hearts, that we may love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength; that as thou hast loved us, we may love one another with pure hearts fervently; that we may bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, find acceptance with thee, through Christ our strength, and our Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW II.

O LORD, we adore thee, as our Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer: the God in whom we live, and with whom we have to do. We adore thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have access to thy throne, and in whom thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses.

We would offer unto thee the sacrifice of praise, with thanksgiving, for all the goodness and mercy which thou art daily making to pass before us. Thou hast heard our morning prayer; thou hast preserved us throughout the day, thou art still supplying our wants, and giving us all things richly to enjoy. Above all, O God, we thank thee for the gift of thy Son; for the means of grace, and the hope of glory. Bless to us at this time the reading of thy word. May it be the sealed instruction of thy Spirit, and may the fruit be unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Look on the face of thine anointed, and look in mercy upon us; for thy name's sake, for thy mercy's sake blot out all our transgressions; receive us graciously, heal all our backslidings, and love us freely. Enable us to lead a life of faith in thy Son; to hate every false way, to depart from evil and do good; to add to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; that these things being in us, and abounding, we may neither be barren nor unfruitful, in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. And may we give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, that we may never fall; that we may endure temptation, that we may be faithful until death, that so an entrance may be ministered unto us abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Take us all, O Lord, under thy protecting care during the silent watches: suffer no evil thing to come nigh our dwelling; make us to lie down in peace, and to dwell safely under the cover of thy wings. Bring us, if it be thy holy will, into the light of a new day, and when we awake, may we be still with thee. We know not, O Lord, what trials may yet await us; but do thou prepare us for all that thou hast prepared for us. We adore thee for the riches of thy grace, and we will trust in the wisdom of thy providence. Thy chastisements are not for thy pleasure, but for our profit; thou dost not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men. We would look to him who endured the cross for our sakes, and who, in that he suffered, being tempted, is able to succor us when we are tempted. The very hairs of our head are all numbered, and not a sparrow falleth to the ground without thee. We will trust in thee, and not be afraid; for thou, the Lord Jehovah, art our strength and our song, thou also art become our salvation. We commend to thee all who are dear to us. Watch over them and bless them; and may they all, together with us, be kept by thy power through faith unto eternal life. And all that we ask is in the name of Christ, and for his sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS III.

O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who shall not fear thee and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy. Thou art of purer eye than to behold evil; thou art angry with the wicked every day: thine eye is in every place beholding the evil and the good. Who shall stand before thee, O holy Lord God? We have all sinned and done evil in thy sight: we have provoked thee to anger, we have deserved thy wrath; we are less than the least of thy mercies. As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned; who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one. What is man that he should be clean? and he that is born of a woman that he should be righteous? Behold thou puttest no trust in thy saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in thy sight. How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water. Every imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?

O Lord, we have destroyed ourselves, but in thee is our help. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people. We are encouraged to come unto thee, because thou art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all them that call upon thee. We bless thee, O God, for thy gracious promise that 'the seed of the woman should bruise the head of the serpent.' We thank thee, O God, for that early dawn of gospel light; and for all the grace and love which thou hast ever since manifested towards thy church and people. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. May our hearts be united unto him by a living faith, that we may partake of all his benefits. May he be made to each one of us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Let thy blessing accompany all the means of grace with which we are favored. Bless our retirement for prayer, and communion with thyself; our meeting around the family altar, our sabbaths, and the services of thy sanctuary; and may thy word not return unto thee void, but be as the good seed sown in our hearts, that it may bring forth in some thirty, in some sixty, and in some an hundred fold. We invoke thy care and protection throughout this day. Keep us from every evil work, from proud thoughts, and the snares of the devil. Give us this day our daily bread, contentment with our lot,

and thankfulness for all thy mercies. Bless all men. Our heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel, is that they may be saved. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in all the earth as it is in heaven. These our prayers we offer up in the name of thy Son, our Saviour. Hear, O Lord, and do for us above all that we can ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW III.

WE bless thee, O God, who at sundry times and divers manners didst speak, in time past, unto the fathers by the prophets, that thou hast in these last days spoken unto us by thy Son. Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion and gracious, long-suffering, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. There is none holy as the Lord, for there is none beside thee; neither is there any rock like our God.

We have all sinned and come short of thy glory. We have forsaken thee, the fountain of living waters, and have hewn out to ourselves, cisterns; broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Alienated from thee by wicked works, we have followed our own devices, and deserve to be filled with the fruit of our doings. Receiving from day to day the gifts of thy providence, and hearing the calls of thy gospel, we have lived unmindful of thee, and have neglected the great salvation. Lord, what shall we render unto thee, for the gift of thy Son, and all the goodness thou art making to pass before us? Yea, rather what shall we answer unto thee, for the mercy we have despised, and the grace we have received in vain? All souls are thine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is thine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. Out of the depths would we cry unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear our voice; let thine ear be attentive to the voice of our supplications. Thou hast promised that a new heart thou wilt give us; that thou wilt put thy Spirit within us; and cause us to walk in thy statutes, to keep thy judgments, and do them; yet, for this, thou wilt be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them. We ask, O God, and trust in thy grace, that we shall bountifully receive. Give us repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; fill our hearts with that godly sorrow which worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. We have been as sheep going astray; let us now, with grief for our sin, and godly sincerity, return unto the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. May we be owned and accepted in the Beloved; may we be brought nigh by the blood of Christ; may we taste and see that thou art gracious. Shed abroad thy love in our hearts, that loving thee, we may love thy law, and delight to do thy will; that, waiting upon thee in all thy ordinances, we may renew our strength; that we may lead lives of faith in thy Son; that we may bring forth fruits meet for repentance; and glorify thee in our body, and in our spirit, which are thine.

Bless us as a family, and bless every individual apart; bless our basket and our store, and the fruit of our labor; may our souls prosper and be in health. We would acknowledge, with gratitude, thy goodness in the day that is past; and now that thou hast drawn over us the shadow of night, we would remember the night of the grave and the reckoning for eternity. We desire to lay us down in thy fear, knowing that darkness hideth not from thee; to stand in awe and sin not; to commune with our own hearts and be still; to offer sacrifices of righteousness, and put our trust in the Lord. Be with us on the return of a new day. Guide us by counsel while we live, and receive us to thy glory when we die. All that we ask is in the name, and for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—GENESIS IV.

O THOU who wilt be sanctified in all them that draw nigh unto thee, enable us, on the return of the hour of prayer, to approach the footstool of thy throne with true hearts, and with unfeigned faith. We know that thou hearest not sinners, and how then may we hope that thou shouldest hear us when we call upon thee? We do not forget, O God, that we are sinners in thy sight—that we are the degenerate children of a fallen father; by nature, children of disobedience, and therefore children of wrath. Yet from the beginning thou hast been known as the hearer of prayer. Thou hast had respect to the persons and offerings of men, born under sin, even as we: and we believe that we too may be saved even as they. O thou God of grace and salvation, assist and direct us to come in the spirit of thine accepted worshippers. We plead the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world; over it we confess and bewail our guilt; and on the ground of its all-atoning merit, we entreat thee to receive us graciously, to heal our backslidings, to love us freely. Having an High Priest over the house of God, even Jesus, the Son of God, we long to have all the distrust of guilt dispelled, and all the distance to which it has driven us from thee overcome, and our minds filled with the peace of God, and restored to a life of communion with thee. Mercifully deliver us from the dominion of sin, from the unbelieving and impenitent heart, from the proud and envious, and uncharitable spirit, and from every forbidden and fatal way. Enable us to cultivate obedience to thy good and holy law. Clothe us with humility; open our ear to thy rebukes. Make us truly penitent for all our sin. Replenish us with all the graces of the Spirit, and let us be filled with all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and the praise of God.

Thou God of all the families of the earth, and of those families especially who call upon thy name, be thou the God of this family. O that we were all united in the same mind and in the same judgment, that family affection may continue and increase; that not one

of all this domestic circle may live as an alien from God, and a stranger to those Christian sympathies which at once hallow and endear the bonds of social life. May one and all of us have one faith, and be found in all our intercourse, adding to our faith, godliness, and brotherly kindness, and charity.

O Lord, let the blessed power of Christian love gather strength and prevalence throughout this fallen world. Let all enmity between man and man be slain by the power of the cross. Let Jew and Gentile be united in the bond of Christian brotherhood. Let all divisions in thy church be healed, and let all, with one mind and one mouth, unite in ascribing salvation unto Him who hath redeemed us out of all nations by his own blood.

We unite in presenting to thee our thanksgivings, for our preservation to another day. Let us all this day live as becometh brethren, in unity. Keep us from all evil, help us in all our duty, and preserve us all by thy power unto eternal life, through the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW IV.

O THOU who art holy, who dost abhor all sin, and with whom evil cannot dwell! wherewithal shall we appear in thy presence? We are prone to evil. Like our first father, we have been more ready to give ear to the false and unholy suggestions of satan than to give heed to thy words of truth, and thy precepts of holiness. Alas, we have given place to the devil, and, but for the riches of thy mercy and forbearance, might, ere now, have had part in his condemnation. With our whole hearts would we bless thee, O Lord, that thou who sparedst not the angels which sinned, but didst cast them down to hell, hast been mercifully pleased to spare us; that thou hast sent thy beloved Son into the world to destroy the works of the devil; to redeem us from guilt, and sin, and death, and hell; as the fruit of his victory, to restore our right to the tree of life, and by the power of his grace to prepare us anew for the paradise of God. O thou who art the God of all grace, suffer not that our hearts should be insensible to that unsearchable love which prompted the errand of thy Son into the world, and sustained him all through his life of deep humiliation and manifold temptations. Let not one among us continue in league with satan, and at enmity against God and his Christ. Recover us out of the snare of the devil. Enable us to wield the sword of the Spirit, after the example, and in the strength of the Lord Jesus. Amid straits and difficulties, help us to possess our souls in patience, and to hold fast our confidence in thy faithfulness and love. In circumstances of outward prosperity, and in the experience of spiritual privileges, let us not be high-minded but fear; and whatever prospect of advantage be set before us, let us be strong to resist or refuse it, when its acceptance would require un-

faithfulness to thee. Vouchsafe to us severally, an interest in all the grace of Christ's kingdom. Bring us out of darkness into thy marvellous light. Make us willingly obedient, and cordially devoted to thy service. Cause us to experience, and help us to exemplify, the precious fruits of thy Spirit, in our release from the dominion of all sin, and in our gradual advancement in the health, and vigor, and maturity of the spiritual life.

We pray for the downfall of satan's kingdom; give unto thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and all the kingdoms of the world for his possession. Unto Him let every knee bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Be thou the light and defence of all dear to us. Be especially gracious to this family. Let all under this roof abide under thy shadow. We offer our grateful thanks for thy care over us throughout the day. We ask thee to blot out the sins of the day—all our sins, in the blood of the Lamb of God. We commit ourselves to thy faithful keeping throughout the night, and would desire to be preserved by thy power, through faith unto everlasting life. And unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be ascribed the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—GENESIS VI.

O THOU who art infinitely blessed in thyself, and art absolutely independent of any or all thy creatures; we wonder and adore, when we contemplate the riches of thy forbearance and long-suffering towards a world that lieth in wickedness. Alas! what a world of iniquity does thine all-seeing eye continually behold, to offend thy purity and provoke thy judgments. How much have we, thy professing people, lived as the children of disobedience; we have followed the multitude to do evil, we have conferred with flesh and blood, and instead of living to glorify thee, the God in whom our breath is, we have loved to fulfil the desires of our sinful hearts. Adored be thy patience which has borne with us amid these manifold provocations—adored be thy grace and mercy which has provided for us a great redemption, and doth invite us still to the free and welcome participation of its blessings. O God, let not any of us abuse thy patience and despise thy grace. Let the interposition of the Son of thy love to save us, rouse our secure and our careless minds, and melt and subdue our hard and rebellious hearts. Let thy love constrain us to live not unto ourselves but unto Him who loved us, and gave himself for us; instead of walking after the course of this world, may we be as the sons of God, without rebuke, walking with God, holding fast our integrity, following submissively and obediently the leadings of thy Holy Spirit, and willing to stand out from the ways, and to

bear the scorn and enmity, of the ungodly world, provided only we may have this testimony, that we please God.

O thou whose name is called upon by us, the Covenant God unto whom we have been baptized, let it please thee to unite us all as indeed the children of thy covenant, and the heirs of its sure mercies. Let the ties of nature be hallowed and endeared by the bonds of grace. Let the heads of this house be united in the Lord. Let the children of the family rise up before thee a holy seed, who shall be to the Lord for a generation; and let all our family intercourse, in all our several relations, promote the growth of our Christian character, and prepare us for holier and more blissful communion together, as members of thy blessed family in heaven.

O God, let the wickedness of the wicked be brought to an end; not again, if it please thee, by the destruction, but by the conversion and salvation of the world, by the power of thy Spirit, and by means of thy gospel. Let the righteous flourish and abound; let the nations be made subject to the reign of Messiah. We bless thee, Lord, that thou art prolonging our day; while the day of life lasts, let us spend it for thee. O God, we would walk with thee, we would cleave to the way of thy precepts; we desire to be guided by thee in the way of life. Hear us, O God, in these our prayers, for the sake of Him who is the Mediator of thy better covenant. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW V. 1-26.

THOU God of peace, who hast turned away from us all thine anger, and dost invite us, through the blood of the cross, to approach thy throne of grace and blessing; forbid that, when we thine offending creatures come before thee to implore thy forgiveness, we should exclude our prayer by refusing forgiveness to any who may have offended us. Enable us to lift up holy hands unto thee, without wrath and doubting, and to pour our hearts in the confidence of love. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath sent Him to bless us, to procure all blessings for us, by the blood of his cross, to proclaim them in the word of his gospel; and to dispense them from the throne of his kingdom. O Lord, let us be blessed in Him; grant that thy Holy Spirit may produce and perfect in us all the lovely character of thy blessed people. Make us lowly and contrite in heart, as becometh sinful creatures; let the desires of our souls be after righteousness; imbue our tempers with the meekness and gentleness of Christ; let us be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful; make us pure in heart, peaceable in demeanor, upright and faithful in our uniform conduct; resolved in thy strength to suffer rather than to sin, and able to rejoice if counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus. O that we were effectually taught of Jesus that they are the truly blessed who are thus renewed by the Spirit into the mind of Christ, that, to acquire, and to increase in this blessedness, we were

quicken'd to the daily cultivation of all the spiritual graces; and that we might so largely possess, and so vigorously exercise, and so visibly exemplify them, that those who see us might acknowledge that we are the seed whom the Lord hath blessed!

O God, cause the light of Christian truth and holiness to spread speedily throughout this dark world; cause the power and energy of thy Spirit's grace to work mightily in recovering it from that moral corruption which has so deeply infected it. Let thy blessing rest on our country; revive, and purify, and prosper thy church at home and abroad; comfort the mourner, sustain the persecuted, give repentance to sinners, and salvation to the dying. Be the God of this family; let ours be the blessedness of the people whose God is the Lord. We resign ourselves to thy charge, imploring thy pardon of all our sin, and thy protection from all evil; while we live let us be blessed in the graces of thy Spirit; when we die make us blessed with the glories of thy kingdom, and to thy name be all the glory, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—GENESIS VII.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, the creator and preserver of the universe, in whom we live and move and have our being: enable us, we humbly pray thee, to worship acceptably at the footstool of thy throne of mercy with reverence and with godly fear. Thou dwellest on high, yet hast thou regard to the lowly, and with that man wilt thou dwell, who is of a humble and contrite spirit, and who trembleth at thy word. We adore the infinite holiness of thy nature, and the perfect rectitude of thy government, and confess that our iniquities have justly subjected us to a state of condemnation, misery and death. It is of thy mercies, O Lord, that we have not been utterly consumed, because thy compassions fail not. We bless thee that thou hast provided for us, in the infinitude of thy love, an all-sufficient Saviour, who becomes, to all who receive Him, a refuge from the storm, and a hiding-place from the tempest—a river of water in a dry place, and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. May we be enabled, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to believe in Jesus to the saving of our souls; and to realize all the benefits which belong to those who have an interest in his perfect righteousness and all-prevailing intercession.

O God, give us grace to escape from the corruptions that are in the world, and to maintain a walk and conversation becoming the gospel. Incline our hearts to thy testimonies, that we may not be ensnared and defiled by the examples and counsels of those who err from thy statutes, and who are treasuring up for themselves wrath against the day of wrath, and perdition of ungodly men. Deliver us from the wickedness of our own hearts, and may sin no more reign over us; but having our souls enlightened and sanctified by thy truth dwell—

ing in us, may we bring forth the fruits of righteousness which are through Jesus Christ, to thy praise and glory.

We bless thee for thy holy word, which is able to make us wise unto salvation. O grant that being warned to flee from the wrath to come, we may be induced to imitate the faith of thy servant of old, by entering within the ark of the new covenant, and living in preparation for an approaching eternity. May we be followers of them who having walked in faith and patience, are now inheriting the promises. May neither the enticing pleasures, nor the dismaying trials of a passing world, so engross our minds as to turn us aside from that narrow path which conducts to the mansions of everlasting bliss. Strengthen us, O God, that we may endure, as seeing thee who art invisible. And at last, having fought the good fight, and finished our course, and kept the faith, may we receive from thy hand the crown of righteousness, which is laid up for all them who love thine appearing. And now, to the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW V. 27-48.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we implore thy grace to enable us to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth; and to present the homage of our sincere thanksgiving, adoration, and praise, at the footstool of thy throne of mercy. All thy works praise thee, and all thy saints bless thee. The heavens declare thy glory, the firmament showeth forth thy handiworks; day unto day uttereth speech, night succeeding night, teacheth knowledge of thee.

To thy preserving care, and unwearied beneficence, are we indebted for being carried in safety through the duties and pursuits of this day; and for being delivered from danger, sickness, and death. Thy goodness is new to us every morning, and thy loving-kindness every evening; great is thy faithfulness. Forgive, we humbly entreat thee, O God, everything wherein we have offended thee, or violated thy most holy and righteous law, whether in thought, word, or deed, during the course of this day, or of the week, which is now drawing to a close. Teach us to understand the extent, the spirituality, and the purity of that obedience which the Scriptures require; and may we be enabled to cultivate that true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. May we delight in thy law, cordially esteeming it as in all respects holy, and just, and good, and as supplying, to every one who reverences and obeys it, a great reward. May we be delivered from the delusion and danger of conceiving that we can ever merit salvation, by our defective and polluted righteousness: and enable us to implore the forgiveness of those sins which mingle even with our best actions, and pervade the whole tenor of our frail and guilty lives. Whilst we receive the law from the lips of Jesus, may we also embrace the salvation which he pur-

chased with his blood : and in endeavoring to make him our example in all his imitable perfections, may we place all our hope for acceptance upon his finished work.

We bless thee for all our mercies and privileges, temporal and spiritual ; and desire to feel thy goodness as the rich and exuberant fountain whence they are supplied. May we obtain refreshing sleep during the silent hours of this night, and may we rise up on the return of the Christian Sabbath, with hearts prepared for engaging in the sacred and interesting duties for which it has been ordained. Bless and protect our friends and relatives. Comfort the poor, the sick, the distressed, and the dying. Extend the bounds of the Redeemer's kingdom, at home and abroad : and may the whole earth become filled with the knowledge of thy glory. Hear these, our humble prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Second Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS VI. VII.

Most gracious God, we bless thee for all the goodness, which thou art causing to pass before us from day to day. On thee do we continually depend for life and health, and every blessing which gladdens our lot. We thank thee for thy preserving care during the past night ; and that whilst many of our fellow-creatures have slept the sleep of death since we lay down to rest, we have been raised up to the renewed enjoyment of the mercies and privileges connected with the land of the living, and the place of hope. We especially bless thee that we have been spared to see the return of another Sabbath : that day which thou hast ordained, in a particular manner, for thine own worship and glory. O grant that we may be enabled to employ its sacred hours, in subserviency to the great and holy ends for which it has been instituted ; and that our Sabbaths on earth may ripen and prepare our souls for the services and enjoyments of that eternal rest, which, hereafter, remaineth for the people of God. Do thou, who at first commandedst the light to shine out of darkness, shine this day into our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Keep us from all vain thoughts, sinful cares, and worldly imaginations : deliver us from impenitence, formality, hypocrisy, and every secret sin ; and may we be enabled so to engage in all the religious services of this day, public and private, that the fruit may be unto holiness, and the end life everlasting.

We bless thee for thine unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ, and for all

the treasures of grace and salvation, which are presented to us in the gospel. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us, and gave his Son to be a propitiation for our sins. When there was no eye to pity, and no arm to save us, thine own eye pitied us, and thy right hand wrought out our salvation. O God, make us truly grateful for thine infinite mercy and goodness; and enable us to comprehend with all saints, what is the length, and the breadth, and the height, and the depth, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God.

And now, that life and immortality have been clearly brought to light by the gospel, may we this day, rise on the wings of faith and contemplation, from earth to heaven, from time to eternity; that we may know what is the hope of thy calling, and what the riches of the glory of thine inheritance in the saints; and what is the exceeding greatness of thy power to usward who believe; according to the working of the mighty power which was wrought in Christ, when thou didst raise him from the dead, and set him at thine own right hand in heavenly places.

Confirm and increase our faith, quicken our hope, animate our love, and invigorate and promote every Christian grace and virtue in our souls. O send forth thy light and thy truth into our hearts, that they may lead us, and bring us into thy holy hill, and thy tabernacles. Prepare our hearts for waiting upon thee, in the ordinances of thy house. Bless the ministers of the everlasting gospel, and may they be workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God, and giving to every one his portion of meat in due season. May we hear thy truth this day preached to us with faith, self-application, and much spiritual benefit: and wherever two or three shall meet together in thy name, be thou in the midst of them, to bless them and do them good. O hasten the time when the light of salvation shall visit every land, and when the glad tidings of the gospel shall be declared unto all people. Bring in thine ancient people, the Jews, with the fulness of the Gentiles: that, as there is only one Shepherd, there may also be but one people. And now, let the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength, and our Redeemer. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS VIII. IX.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, we adore thee, who art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders, and whose ways are past finding out. Thou hast laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as a garment: and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. We bless thee for the in-

finite and unmerited goodness which thou art continually exercising towards us. What are we, O Lord, or what our fathers' house, that thou shouldest deal so bountifully with us. Our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, and we all do fade as the leaf; and our iniquities as the wind do carry us away. But yet, O Lord, we rejoice that there is mercy with thee, that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption, that thou mayest be sought after. We thank thee for the invitations and promises of the gospel; and we pray that Christ may be made unto us, wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification, and complete redemption.

O grant that the opportunity enjoyed by us this day, of hearing thy word preached, may contribute to our spiritual improvement and growth in grace; and may constrain us to abound with greater zeal and sincerity, during our future lives, in thy holy service. We desire that we may be not hearers only, but doers also, of thy will: and that, adding to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity, we may be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May an abundant blessing follow the preaching of the everlasting gospel, to all by whom it has been heard; and may there be joy among the angels of heaven, over many sinners, who have been brought to repentance. O grant that the time may soon arrive, when all ignorance, idolatry, and wickedness, may come to an end; and when the earth shall become filled with the knowledge of thy glory, as the waters cover the channel of the great deep. We bless thee for all the mercies temporal and spiritual, we have this day enjoyed. Pardon all our sins, and especially the sins of our holy things. Watch over us this night: keep us from evil; and now to thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, we ascribe all praise and glory, and blessing and honor, and thanksgiving, world without end. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—GENESIS VIII.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God; thou art over all. Thy mercy is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds; thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep; thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy loving-kindness; therefore, the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. We must acknowledge with shame and confusion of face that the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; and that by our many and aggravated offences, we have justly provoked thy high displeasure. Yea, we have added to our guilt in not being warned, as we ought to have been, by the tokens of wrath with which thou hast visited the generation before the flood.

We deserve, O Lord, to be overtaken like them with the judgments of heaven; our advantages have been greater, our sin has

been more heinous. We admire, most gracious Father, thy long-suffering and faithfulness. How tenderly didst thou remember Noah and his family, and the very beasts of the field. Remember us also, even with the love which thou bearest to thy children, and forgive all our sins, and visit our souls with thy benign salvation. We rejoice in the proofs which thou hast given of thy faithfulness, not only in the deliverance from the ark, but in the regular succession of seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, through so many hundred years. May we remember with comfort, that if thou art so faithful in nature, thou wilt be not less faithful in grace; and that all the promises which thou hast given in connection with thy Son and Spirit, thou wilt most assuredly fulfil to the believing soul. May we therefore, with greater confidence, be induced to acknowledge thee in all our ways, and in dark and trying seasons trust thy paternal protection and love. May the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus be our only hope, and his gospel the olive branch of peace to our souls; and may we be enabled to look forward with growing joy, to the time when there shall be new heavens and a new earth; when there shall be no more curse, when all shall be righteous.

God of ordinances, accompany with a divine blessing, the religious exercises of yesterday. Thou hast all hearts in thy hand, and turnest them as easily as thou turnest the rivers of water. May we ever look up to Thee for the Holy Spirit, and may He, in answer to prayer, be richly vouchsafed, and instruct, and impress, convert, comfort, and sanctify us and our fellow-worshippers, according to our and their respective circumstances and wants. We pray for the church with which we are more immediately connected. Abundantly prosper her undertakings for thy glory and the good of souls, both at home and abroad, and hasten the time when all thy elect children shall be gathered from the four winds into the ark of salvation, and the reign of heaven begin. May these the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, find acceptance with thee, the Hearer and Answerer of prayer, seeing all that we ask is in the name, and for the sake, of our blessed Emmanuel. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW VI.

FATHER of mercies, we thy unworthy servants, desire this evening to come into thy presence, and to lift up our united praises and supplications at thy footstool. Be pleased graciously to assist us, and to accept of our persons and sacrifices, in the name of our great High Priest. We thank thee for all the revelations which thou hast condescended to make of thyself in nature, and providence, and thy word. Especially do we rejoice that instead of revealing thyself in terrors, thou hast discovered thyself under the endearing appellation of our Father in heaven. It is thou, O God, who arrayest the lilies of the field, in such beauty as

to surpass Solomon in all his glory; and it is the same tender hand which feeds the fowls of the air, which neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. Wilt thou not then care for us? We bless thy name, that thou encouragest us to draw near to thee in prayer; supplying us with a form of words, and mercifully promising to confer upon us all the blessings of which we stand in need. Give us, we beseech thee, to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. May we not lay up for ourselves treasures on earth which are liable to danger and decay, but treasures in heaven, which neither moth nor rust corrupt, and which thieves cannot break through to steal. May we all possess Christ, the pearl of great price, and may He so dwell in us, that we shall be delivered from anxious and unbelieving care about things seen and temporal. In duties more directly religious, may we beware of ostentation and vain glory. Whether we give alms, or fast, or pray, grant, most merciful Father, that we may do all unto thee—under the guidance of such motives as thou wilt approve.

God of grace, we pray that thy kingdom may come universally. Visit the dark places of the earth, the habitations of cruelty, with the benevolent light of the gospel. Be especially merciful to the multitudes of spiritually destitute at home, for the church to which we belong, is making it her care to provide the means of salvation. Every where bless the ministers of the everlasting gospel, multiply their number, and increase their zeal and faithfulness. Abundantly bless the pastor with whose ministry we are connected. Give him largely of the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that feeling the sweetness of religion in his own soul, he may be more enabled to contribute to our spiritual good, and to that of our fellow-worshippers. We desire to conclude our evening petitions in the words which our blessed Lord has taught us to use, 'Our Father,' &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XI. 1-9. AND XII.

MOST blessed God! What God is there in heaven or in earth that can do according to thy works? And well may the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of thee, for thou didst speak and it was done—thou commandedst and it stood fast—thou bringest the counsel of the heathen to naught, thou makest the devices of the people of none effect; but thy counsels, O Lord, stand forever; the thoughts of thy heart are to all generations. How great is the pride and rebellion of man! How often, alas! do we lift up ourselves against the Lord, and attempt to follow our own way, disregarding thy law and providence, and seeking even to frustrate the purposes of thy grace. Yet how easy is it for thee, O God, to confound and scatter all the schemes of thy rebellious children. Well is it for us that thou dost not abandon us to our waywardness. May we feel truly grateful for thy kind interpositions.

We adore the sovereign, we rejoice in the condescending, mercy by which thou didst choose Abraham and his family to be the guardians and dispensers of thy blessed truth to men. May we approve ourselves sons and daughters, by crediting thy word with the simplicity of children, and going forth to duty, and temptation, strong in the Lord, and in the power of thy might. Forbid we should ever listen to the suggestions of human expediency in opposition to the requirements of thy holy law; may we remember that whilst thou art the God of mercy, thou art also the God of holiness, and wilt not fail to punish sin even in thine own people. May we ever make it our study to walk before the Lord perfectly; and may the Holy Spirit help our infirmities, and in the hour of trial lead us upwards to our compassionate Intercessor.

God of all the families of the earth! be very gracious to the whole body of our brethren of mankind in their varied circumstances and relations. Be especially merciful to thine ancient people, the descendants of Abraham. May the goodness and severity of God lead them to repentance. May they be humbled in the dust for all their offences, particularly for their protracted rejection of thy Son, the true Messiah; and may they behold in Jesus of Nazareth that blessed seed of Abraham, in whom alone they, and all the families of the earth, can be blessed. May the means which are employed for the conversion of the Jews be greatly extended, and signally honored by the great and good Shepherd of the flock; and may the time speedily arrive when the confusion of Babel shall be healed, when human language, the repository of words of wickedness, profanity, and war, shall give place to one holy, united, and harmonious tongue, even the language of the New Jerusalem. These, our morning requests, we present before thee, entreating a favorable answer, in the name of Him who is our only Hope and Confidence. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW VII.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High! to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Blessed be thy goodness for the encouragement which thou hast given us, to draw near to thee in prayer; that thou hast not only said, 'Ask and ye shall receive—seek and ye shall find—knock and it shall be opened to you;' but hast assured us, that as certainly as an earthly parent gives good things to his children, so certainly wilt thou, our Father who art in heaven, give the Holy Spirit to them who ask thee. We rejoice in the promise of the Spirit, and would honor Him, even as we honor the Father and the Son. We would remember his personality and divinity, and the high and glorious offices which he executes, in applying to the souls of men the redemption which Christ hath wrought out. Under his teaching and guidance,

may those of us who have not entered the strait gate, now enter it in repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ; and under the same blessed guardianship may those who have entered, be persuaded to press forward with increasing diligence and perseverance on the narrow way which leadeth unto life. Most merciful God! forbid that any of us should content ourselves with a mere religious profession; saying, Lord, Lord, while we do not the will of our Father who is in heaven. May we remember that every tree is known by its fruits: and examine ourselves, whether our fruit, our spirit, and temper, and life, be the product of the good or the corrupt tree. May we make it our care to build upon Christ, the Rock of ages, that when the rains descend, and the floods come, and the winds blow and beat upon the house of our hope, it may not fall, being founded on a rock. And in the mean time, may we prove the reality of our Christian discipleship, by not only loving the Lord supremely, but by loving our neighbor even as we love ourselves. May we shun rash and censorious judgments, and beware. when marking the mote in our brother's eye, lest a beam be found in our own. May we, in all our intercourse with others, even the unworthy and injurious, be animated by that divine principle of Charity, which suffereth long and is kind, which beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

God of love! we lift up our earnest and united intercessions in behalf of all men; in behalf of our beloved country, our President, and all placed in authority over us. Pour down upon them, and upon all ranks, the spirit of true humiliation for numberless national offences; and turn away from our land merited judgment. Bless the church universal! Bring to a speedy and effectual end the reign of Antichrist, in all its forms of infidelity, superstition, and error; greatly revive the churches of the Reformation, even with a double portion of the spirit of apostolic times, and hasten the glory of the latter days, when Jew and Gentiles shall rejoice universally in the rule of Messiah.

Be very gracious, Father of mercies, to our friends and relatives, our benefactors, our enemies. Look in compassion upon the children of affliction, and adapt the communications of thy grace to their necessity; and while ourselves about to lie down and take sweet rest and sleep, may we not forget the hour when we shall be stretched on beds of sickness, and death; and gladly improve our present privileges and opportunities. Hearer of prayer! we present our supplications at thy footstool, entreating an answer, not according to the poverty of our requests, but according to the riches of thy free and sovereign mercy: in the name and for the sake of thy dear Son, the Lamb, who was slain, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, the triune Jehovah, be ascribed honor and glory, blessing and praise, now and forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XIII.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all grace and consolation, we come before thee this morning, in the multitude of thy tender mercies, and as a family we would surround our domestic altar, and present to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. Many, O Lord, are the blessings we are receiving at thy hand. They are new to us every morning, and every evening, yea, every moment of our lives. That we have been protected during the watches of the last night; that we have had refreshing sleep; that we have been permitted to assemble together in circumstances of comfort, is because thy mercy never faileth. Justly, O Lord, mightest thou have made our sleep our death, and our awaking this morning to be in outer darkness; for we have forgotten the Lord that made us, we have overlooked the hand that feeds us, the arm that sustains us; but the mercy of the Lord endureth forever; his grace never faileth, and thus it is that we are in the land of the living, that we are on praying ground. 'Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits.' Let the goodness, the forbearance, the tender mercies of God, of which we have shared so richly, awaken in our souls the feelings of deep contrition, while they kindle the flame of holy gratitude and love. When thou, Lord, art loading us with thy benefits, and art heaping coals of fire on our heads, let these hard hearts of ours be melted, and let our unfeigned language be, What can we render to the Lord for all his goodness to us?

But we have not merely to thank thee, O gracious Father, for unnumbered temporal mercies, but for the continuance of spiritual blessings and privileges; we have to thank thee for the word of salvation, and for the renewed privilege of pouring out our hearts before thee. We thank thee for all that the gospel reveals and makes known to us: for its doctrines, its promises, its consolations, its hopes. We thank thee for bringing before us the lives of thine own children, that by their fidelity and constancy, and contempt of the world, we may be encouraged and stimulated: that by their failings and departures from God, we may be warned and deterred. Give us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit of the Father of the faithful, who lived as a pilgrim and stranger on the earth, and whose eye was habitually directed to a better country. Guard us against the allurements and temptations of this world, and help us, Lord, to place our affections on the things that are unscen and eternal. Lord, do thou enable us to follow peace, and to seek peace by all means; and may we ever cherish the Spirit and follow the steps of Him who was meek and benignant, and lowly in heart.

We acknowledge, O Lord, our natural proneness to cleave to the dust, and to seek a resting-place here; we acknowledge that our hearts in their natural state are very enmity to thee, that we are hateful and hating one another; O may thy Spirit be given to change these hard hearts, these carnal inclinations, these worldly desires of

ours ; that changed and renewed, and moulded, into thine own blessed image, we may live as the redeemed of the Lord, as the expectants of future glory.

Help us, Lord, in our intercourse with the world this day, in our varied duties and engagements, to set the Lord before us, to live as seeing God who is invisible, to keep at a distance from everything that is sinful, and while we are in the world, and mingle with the world, may we never be of the world. We offer up these our supplications in the name of Him whom thou hearest always, who is our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW VIII.

BEFORE thee, O Lord, the Father of all, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, would we again prostrate ourselves, in holy reverence. We acknowledge our great unworthiness to appear in thy presence, but thou dost encourage us to come boldly to thy throne of grace, and for the sake of Him whom thou hearest always, to hope for mercy to pardon, and grace to help us. Give us then to draw near with true hearts, and with the confidence of children to their Father, to pour out our hearts before thee.

And now, Lord, we entreat of thee to give us just views of our own sinfulness. We are in thy sight, wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked ; covered with the leprosy of sin, the whole head sick, and the whole heart faint. But how little do we feel this our natural condition. How prone are we to lose sight of our guilt and depravity, to draw a covering over the diseases of our corrupt nature, the plagues of our deceitful and desperately wicked hearts, and thus to say, Peace, peace to our souls, all is well. Do thou, then, O merciful Father, by thy Holy Spirit, shine into our hearts, to give us just views of sin, and just views of ourselves as sinners. Discover to us our deep depravity, our personal guilt, our manifold transgressions, that we may thus be led to unfeigned humility, to genuine contrition, to fervent supplication. At this moment we would use the language, with, we trust, somewhat of the feelings of the abased publican,—God be merciful to us sinners ; or the trembling disciples,—Lord save us, we perish. O what ground is there for eternal thankfulness and praise, that with the Lord there is mercy, that with our God there is plenteous redemption ; that there is a way of escape from sin's guilt and sin's pollution and power ; there is now balm in Gilead, there is a physician there. Thou, O Lord, hast laid our help on one that is mighty to save. We triumph in Christ, who is revealed and made known to us in the gospel, and of whom such glorious things are spoken in that portion of the word of life now read. We would mark, with adoring gratitude, the compassion and tenderness of our gracious Redeemer, the dignity and power of our Almighty Saviour ; and we do rejoice in the thought

that that Saviour, exalted though he is on high, is the same gracious, compassionate friend; that he is willing, as he is able, to save to the very uttermost, all that come unto God through Him; that he retains a feeling of our infirmities, and that he will succor those that are tempted. Let it be given to us, Lord, in the behalf of Christ, to believe on his name. Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief. We would say in faith, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make us clean; speak the word and we shall be healed. Pardon, Lord, our iniquities, for they are very great. Cure, Lord, our every disease. Heal our backslidings; mortify our corruptions; uproot our every sinful propensity; transform us into thine own blessed image; make us, Lord, what thou wouldest have us to be, and keep us by thy mighty power, through faith, unto salvation.

We would look back on the way by which thou, Lord, hast led us this day; thou hast carried us out and brought us in safety, and hast permitted no evil to approach us; and we would set up our Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. And now, Lord, we commit ourselves to thee this night; defend us, we beseech thee, from all danger; grant us refreshing sleep; bring us if it is thy holy will, to the light of a new day, with increasing desires to love, to serve, and to obey thee. And to thy name, in Christ Jesus, we will ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XV.

It is good for us, O Lord Most High, to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night; for while all thy works praise thee, it surely becomes thy rational offspring to bless thee. We thank thee, Lord, for all thy mercies to us, undeserving sinners; but especially would we bless thy name for thine unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ. In this hast thou manifested thy love towards us, in a way that passeth all understanding. And we bless thee, Lord, for the early intimations of thy purposes of grace, in regard to our rebellious, fallen, and lost race. Never hast thou left thyself without witness of thy gracious designs. We thank thee, that to the first transgressor the whispers of peace were addressed; that to the patriarchs a deliverer was promised; and that as time advanced, and generation succeeded generation, the declarations of heaven became more full and explicit, and the views of the Deliverer and the deliverance more clear and enlivening; and we adore thee, that in the fulness of time, the promised Deliverer has appeared to establish thy faithfulness, to magnify thy law, and to bring lost sinners to thee. And now, Lord, what reason have we to thank thee that the Day Spring from on high hath visited us; that to us Christ is made known; that to us his salvation is published; that to us all the riches of his grace and glory are freely offered. O let us never forget, that to whom much is given, of them much shall be required.

Inspire us with that holy principle that distinguished the Father of the faithful ; give us that faith which raises above all doubts, all suspicions, all fear ; which unites the soul savingly to Christ, and gives an interest in his salvation. Give us, we beseech thee, to rely with unshaken confidence on the promises of the faithful and immutable Jehovah. Give us to lay hold of, and trust to, the provisions of that covenant which was ratified by the blood of Christ, and which is in all things well ordered and sure. Give us to look to Christ as our righteousness and strength, as all our salvation and all our desire. Justify us, Lord, freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ. And we pray, Lord, that we may experience the sanctifying influence of this divine principle, that our faith may work by love, that it may overcome the world, and that it may be accompanied by all the fruits of righteousness to the praise of thy name. And, Lord, relying on the gracious declaration to Abraham, that in his seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed, we plead thine own faithful word of promise. Give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. May men be blessed in Jesus ; may all nations call him blessed ! We pray for the sorrowful and the afflicted, that the consolations of God may refresh their spirits. Give the dying an interest in Christ, that to them to depart may be great gain.

And now, Lord, we would place ourselves this day under thy guidance and guardianship ; we would go whithersoever thou leadest us. We would ever hear thy voice behind us, saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.' We would sanctify thee, the Lord, in our hearts, and we would live habitually under the constraining influence of redeeming love. Lord, direct us ! Lord, uphold us ! Lord, strengthen us ! Be our God forever and ever, and our guide even unto death. And now to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, would we ascribe all the glory, now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW IX.

How excellent is thy name, O Lord, in all the earth ; thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Thou art clothed with honor and majesty ; angels worship thee, archangels adore thee. But though thou humblest thyself to behold the things that are in heaven, thou dost not disregard the things that are on earth. To that man thou lookest, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit. Encouraged by this consideration, weak, helpless, and guilty, and polluted, though we are, we would this evening prostrate ourselves before thee. We would thank thee, Lord, for the unnumbered mercies that have been crowded into our lot. Well may we say, that our blessings have been numerous as the moments of our existence. We were cast on thee from the womb, and thou hast never ceased to care for us ; our wants have returned daily and hourly, but thy

hand has been opened for their supply; dangers have threatened and overtaken us, but thine arm has been stretched out for our defence. Surely on looking back on the way by which we have been conducted through the wilderness, and marking God's dealings towards us, we may well say, 'Goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life.' And yet, what are we that the Lord should deal thus bountifully with us; for although we have been nourished and brought up as children, we have rebelled against thee. And during this very day that has fled away, how often have we forgotten, how often have we forsaken thee, how much have we been cumbered with the many things to the neglect of the one thing needful, how little have our thoughts, and words, and actions, been under the direction and control of religious principle, and how little have we in our duties and trials been influenced by a sense of the divine goodness. Lord, thou mightest righteously have cut us down as the cumberers of the ground: but thou art God and not man, therefore thou hast borne with us, and waitest to be gracious to us. See God our shield, look on us in the face of thine own Anointed. Receive us graciously, love us freely, for Christ's sake. And now we adore thee, that thou hast permitted us once more to read thy most holy word, to learn of Christ and his salvation, and to meditate on things that are spiritual and divine. Bring the doctrines and lessons of thy word home with saving power; let them dwell in us richly, in all knowledge and understanding. Do thou, Lord, who hast the hearts of all in thy hands, speak with resistless energy to each of our hearts. If there are among us benighted souls, may thy Holy Spirit enlighten us; if there are dead among us, may we be quickened and revived; if we labor under spiritual apathy, do thou, O Lord, arouse us; strengthen the spark within us that may be ready to die; speak to us, Lord, according to our different cases, and make us what thou wouldest have us to be. Fill us with deeper concern for the glory of the Redeemer; inspire us with more sincere, and ardent, and active love for perishing souls. Lord, the harvest is great; soon may the wilderness be glad, the desert rejoice, and blossom like the rose!

We commit ourselves, Lord, to thy divine protection this night; may the eternal God be our refuge; may the everlasting arms encircle us. Bring us, if it is thy holy will, to the light of a new day; and whether we sleep or wake, may we be still with thee. Our prayers now, Lord, are before thee, we beseech thee to hear, to accept, and to answer us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XVII.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God! thou art worthy to receive our humblest adoration; yea, thou art exalted above all blessing and praise; and there is none in heaven nor on earth that can once be

compared to thee. The nations before thee are as nothing, and are counted less than nothing, and vanity. Help us, therefore, to fall down before thee with reverence and godly fear; and while we venture into thy presence, let every proud thought be abased, that God alone may be exalted in our hearts.

We give thanks unto thy name, O Lord, that though we see thee not with our bodily eye, we are yet permitted to behold thee with the eye of faith—revealed in a character fitted to draw forth the liveliest feelings and affections of our heart. It is thy mercy which hath thus made us to differ from the blinded and idolatrous nations who worship they know not what, being carried captive by Satan at his will. And since thou hast revealed thyself, not only as possessed of that essential glory and excellence, which is inseparably thine own, but as condescending to hold with us, thine unworthy creatures, a covenant-relation through thy Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, O grant that we may be enabled to apprehend thee aright in this endearing character, and to close heartily with the terms which thou art therein holding out to our acceptance.

May we ever bear in mind, that it is in Christ alone we can possess the privileges of thy children; that it is only by faith in Him, that we have access into the grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Let Christ appear increasingly precious to our souls; and seeing that in Him, as our surety, we have one infinitely able to satisfy every demand which law and justice could bring against us, may we ever have grace to hold fast this confidence of our rejoicing, and count all things but as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord.

We pray also, heavenly Father, that as thy covenant-people, thou wouldest enable us to walk worthy of thee unto all pleasing. Having been brought from the depths of misery and corruption, to stand so near to thyself, and inherit the blessings of thine everlasting covenant, O grant that we may be enabled to purify ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, to keep our garments undefiled, and walk with thee our God in the white robes of righteousness. Fill us with the grace of thy blessed Spirit, that we may be able to crucify sin in all our members—that we may rise superior to the desires and affections of nature—that at thy bidding we may be ready to part with every object, however much endeared to our affections, yea, and may not count our very lives dear to us, that we may finish with joy the course which thou hast set before us. May we all be of one mind with our blessed Redeemer, whose meat it was to do the will of His Father in heaven; and may we feel it to be our happiness, as well as our duty, to walk in the careful observance of every precept thou hast enjoined upon us.

Let thy blessing, we humbly beseech thee, be upon us this day, to which, in thy mercy and loving-kindness, we have been spared. Give us our daily bread, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Where we go, do thou, Lord, go with us; cause the light of thy countenance to shine upon us, and let the right hand of thy righteousness establish our goings.

We commend unto thee our friends and relatives, praying that

they may all be enriched with thy grace, and satisfied with thy abundant goodness. Let the land in which we live be eminently blessed of thee; let those who rule, rule in the fear of God, and let the hearts of the people be turned away from all manner of iniquity to the knowledge and service of thee, the living God. Yea, let all lands, we pray thee, soon come to know thy truth, and rejoice in thy salvation. Cause thy word to have free course and be glorified throughout the earth—even till thy knowledge cover it as the waters cover the channel of the sea. And now, heavenly Father, let our prayer, this morning, come up before thee with acceptance, blot out all our sins, and accept of us in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW X. 1-23.

WE bow down before thee, O Lord, adoring thee as the Father of mercies and the God of all grace. Thy thoughts towards us have ever been thoughts of peace, and all thy ways have been faithfulness and truth. The experience of every day brings to us renewed manifestations of thy fatherly goodness, and every new opening of thy counsels unfolds to us fresh discoveries of the everlasting love wherewith thou hast loved us in Christ.

We would unite, O God, in giving thee thanks, eternal thanks, that thou hast sent thy Son into this world to seek and to save the lost. We rejoice that in his blood thou hast provided a ransom sufficient to atone for all guilt, and hast brought in an everlasting righteousness, which forever perfects them that are sanctified. Herein indeed was love, not that we loved God but that he loved us, and gave up his only-begotten Son to the death, even the painful and accursed death of the cross, for us. And blessed be thy name, O God, that thou hast not left us in ignorance of thy manifested grace, but hast brought near to each of us the message of this salvation, testifying of thy willingness to receive us to an interest in its blessings, and seal us up to an inheritance in thy kingdom.

O let the glad tidings be received with welcome into our hearts, and have their gracious design fulfilled in our experience, by turning us away from all our iniquities to serve the living God. May we ever hail it as a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners, even the chief; and seeing that for our sakes thou hast caused him, though he knew no sin, to become sin for us, grant that we may indeed be found the righteousness of God in him.

But, O Lord, we pray, not only that we may be thus led to receive and abide in Jesus, but that we may also be enabled to approve ourselves his faithful followers, and be ready to bear his reproach. Thou hast cast our lot in a world where thy truth is little known, and much disliked; where many sinful prejudices and worldly inter-

ests are ever rising up to withstand the claims of Christ: so that the cause of holiness is often oppressed, and the good of thy people evil spoken of. Give us grace, therefore, O Lord, to stand fast against the dangers to which we are exposed, and permit us not to be moved from the hope of that gospel, which thou hast delivered to us. Let the power of our risen Lord flow down into our hearts, and strengthen us with all might, by thy Spirit, in the inner man, that we may overcome, even as he also has overcome; that we may never fall from our steadfastness, but follow him through good report and through bad report, and that in all things he may be glorified by us.

Look, we beseech thee, O Lord, upon thy suffering cause in the earth, and revive it in the midst of the days. Send forth refreshments from thy presence, and ordain strength out of the mouths even of those who are as babes in thy heavenly kingdom, so that they may still the enemy and the avenger. Purify thy church more and more from the corruptions which have defaced her comeliness, and impaired her strength. Clothe thy priests with salvation, and cause thy saints to shout for joy. Let thy work increase and prosper, and let multitudes be added to thy church of such as shall be saved. We commit ourselves to thee for protection and blessing this night. Let the banner of thy love be over us, and let no plague come nigh our dwelling. When we lie down, be thou with us. When we awake, may we find ourselves still with God. And O grant, that whether we wake or sleep, we may all live together with Christ. Hear, Lord, our prayer: pardon our transgressions; accept our thanksgivings for thy manifold mercies through another day; and do to us even more than we can ask or think, through Christ Jesus the Beloved. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XVIII.

O LORD God, how great is thy goodness! how adorable is thy condescension towards sinners! Thou art so highly exalted above all creation, that thou humblest thyself even to behold the things that are in heaven and on earth. Yet thou dost not only behold us, but dost graciously think upon us, and rejoice over us to do us good; and we are all before thee as living monuments of thy mercy, and constant pensioners upon thy bounty, receiving daily at thy hand innumerable mercies, of the very least of which we are altogether unworthy.

O Lord, thou mightest have dealt otherwise with us—thou mightest have given us judgment instead of mercy, and sent hard things into our experience. For how often have we provoked thee, the Lord, to anger by our iniquities! and behaved ourselves with a proud and stubborn heart toward thine infinite majesty! We have indeed added sin to sin—day after day transgressing thy righteous precepts—disregarding thy severe threatenings, and trampling upon

that holy covenant which thou hast ratified with the blood of thy dear Son.

We would, therefore, in drawing near to thee, make mention of thy loving-kindness and of thy righteousness, even of thine only. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast revealed thyself in a character of free and sovereign grace; that thou hast taken for thy memorial through all generations, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness, and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. And when we think what thou hast done for us in the exercise of this thy wonderful compassion; how thou hast not spared the Son of thy love, but given Him up to the death for us, that we might be redeemed from wrath and obtain the adoption of sons, it well becomes us to exclaim, in devout astonishment, Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God! O let each one of us be humbled to the dust under a sense of thine infinite goodness and undeserved mercy. Give us to feel the obligations under which we lie; because of the riches of redeeming grace, to honor and glorify thy name; and as owing everything we have and hope for to thine unmerited goodness, may we be constrained to yield ourselves as living sacrifices to thee, which is our reasonable service.

Forbid, O God, we earnestly implore thee, that any of us should reject the offers of a mercy so undeserved, and lose our inheritance in a salvation so unspeakably great. Draw us near to thee with the cords of thy love, and bind us up to a saving interest in thine everlasting covenant. O let our portion be the portion of thy children. And enable us by thy grace ever to bear in mind the high and holy calling wherewith we are called, as thy redeemed and covenant-people in Christ, that we may walk worthy of it. May our conversation indeed be in heaven; may we walk as becomes those who have their fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

We thankfully acknowledge thy goodness in sparing us to see the light of this day, and would commit ourselves in confidence to thee as thy children, that we may be kept from all evil, and fitted for the discharge of our respective duties. Let integrity and uprightness preserve us. And while we are called to mingle in the society and go into the employment of this present evil world, O suffer us not to forget that thou hast called us out of the world to be thy chosen people, to do thy blessed will, and be faithful witnesses of thy truth. Hold thou up our goings, so that our footsteps may not slide from the path of thy commandments. Let thy blessing, we humbly pray thee, be upon our kindred, upon our rulers, upon the land of our nativity, and upon all that love the Lord Jesus Christ in every region of the earth. Refresh thy weary heritage with much of thine own Spirit, and cause the sound of thy gospel to be heard in every land, and to reach even to the ends of the earth. Let the people praise thee, O Lord, let all the people praise thee. Our waiting eyes are toward thee. Hear in heaven thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest forgive, for all we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, our ever-blessed Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW X. 24-42.

OUR Father, who art in heaven! we come to thee as a portion of thy family on earth, to adore and praise thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We come to thee in his name, in whom thou art ever well pleased, and desire to know nothing as the ground of our confidence at thy throne, but Jesus Christ and him crucified. See us, we humbly pray thee, in the face of thine anointed; draw near and visit us with thy salvation; give us to experience the good of thy chosen, and fill our souls abundantly with the riches of redeeming grace.

We esteem it good for us, O God, to be waiting as humble suppliants at thy footstool. For thou hast all power, and glory, and blessing at thy disposal: and in thee alone can we find what we need to restore and satisfy our natures. Thou art the fountain of living waters, and apart from thee there is no life and refreshment to the soul. O let us know somewhat of the infinite sufficiency that is in thee. Manifest thyself to us in another manner than thou dost unto the world. With the blessed light of thy countenance do thou shine upon our souls, and out of the fulness which thou hast treasured up in Christ for thy believing people, give us all to receive, even grace for grace.

Thou hast declared, that all who are far away from thee shall perish, and that tribulation and wrath shall be revealed against those who have despised the gospel of thy grace in Christ. Save us, we therefore pray thee, save us from falling into that perdition of ungodly men. Quicken us by thy Holy Spirit, that we may ever be kept truly alive to the things which belong to our everlasting peace. And if thou art pleased to bring danger or difficulty into our path—if reproach, or persecution, or distress, is appointed to us in the course of thy providence, for the sake of Christ, enable us to take all meekly as from thy hand, and as knowing that we have with thee an inheritance that faileth not. Let eternal realities be so deeply impressed upon our minds by the power of the Spirit, that we shall be disposed to count even the reproach of Christ greater riches than all the treasures of a perishing world; that neither the fear of men's displeasure, nor the love of men's applause, may have power to bring us under bondage to sin, but that we may hold fast to the end our spiritual freedom, and permit no one to take our crown. While it is given us now to live amid the light and privileges of the gospel, O enable us to live to the Lord, that when we die, we may also die unto the Lord; living or dying, may we alike be thine.

We bless thy name, that another day, another week, has passed over our heads, bringing to us, as individuals and as a family, many tokens of thy care and tenderness. We are not worthy, O Lord, of the least of thy mercies; and with every remembrance of thy goodness, we desire to couple a deep sense of our exceeding sinfulness. Visit us not, we beseech thee, according to our iniquities—requite

us not after our folly ; but bury our transgressions in the depths of the sea, and in thy great mercy come over all the mountains of our provocations. Watch over us in covenant-faithfulness during the silence and the darkness of this night. Let the blood of sprinkling be upon the door-posts of our dwelling, that the destroying angel may not come nigh us. Give us all to experience the rest of thy beloved, and refresh us both in body and in soul, for the solemnities of another day of the Son of man. May the outgoings of a returning Sabbath be felt to rejoice over us, with manifestations of love and favor to us from on high. And O may the Sun of righteousness arise on the morrow, with healing under his wings, upon many dark and benighted souls. Hear, Lord, when we call unto thee, and let grace, mercy, and peace, now and evermore, rest upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Third Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM X.

MOST blessed and gracious Father, the Creator, the Redeemer, and Ruler of all things, vouchsafe to us thy Spirit, that we may now draw near to thee in faith, and present our supplications in a right spirit, relying for acceptance on the finished work of thy Son. Verily thou art the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. Notwithstanding the depravity of our hearts, the perversity of our wills, and the aggravated violations of thy law with which we are chargeable, thou art still sparing us in the land of the living, and in a place of hope. In the multitude of thy tender mercies we are preserved to see another sabbath morning, and in health and strength to surround the altar of family prayer. O help us to remember the spiritual things with which a sabbath morning is so much calculated to impress us. We desire to remember that on this morning our Redeemer arose from the dead, as the spoiler of principalities and powers, as a pledge that he was the Messiah promised to thy people, and that, when we are trusting in him for salvation, we are indeed trusting in one in whom dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. We desire that all of us may be in the Spirit on this thy holy day, and that we may be enabled to spend it as a foretaste of that everlasting sabbath promised to thy people, when time shall be no more ; may we serve thee with our whole hearts, and feel ourselves refreshed and built up in our most holy faith. We mourn over the multitudes, O Lord, who desecrate thy sabbaths, and prostitute them to the obe-

dience of their own passions, who abstain from meeting with thee in thy sanctuary, and stout-heartedly oppose themselves to thy revealed word. This, O God, we do mourn, as hateful in thy sight, destructive to their own souls, and a grief to thine own people. Graciously stop them in their career of wickedness, pluck them as brands from the burning, and make them yet monuments to the praise of thy sovereign grace. Revive, we beseech thee, thy work in the midst of the years. Visit thine own heritage, and water and sanctify it by thy Holy Spirit. May multitudes be daily added to the church, of such as shall be saved, that righteousness may run down our streets as a stream, and iniquity, as ashamed, hide its head. Prepare our hearts for waiting acceptably upon thee in thy house. May thy servants come forth to us, fraught with the glad tidings of salvation. May sinners be converted, and mourners in Zion comforted. May all thy worshipping people be refreshed from thine own presence. If we are spared, O Lord, to see the evening, may we have great cause to say, Truly the Lord is faithful, he hath visited our souls, and given us more enlarged and experimental views of the preciousness of Christ. This, our imperfect prayer, is now before thee; be pleased to hear, and accept, and graciously answer, because all that we ask is for the sake and through the mediation of thy Son whom thou hearest always. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS XI. XII. XIII.

INTO thy presence, O Lord, we desire this evening to come with holy reverence for thy character, with hearts grateful for the mercies which we have this day experienced, and with earnest anxiety for grace to keep us in every time of need. Thou art well acquainted with our different cases, with our natural unbelief and hostility to thy will, with the sin that is mingled up with our purest services, and with the great need that we have of thy Spirit to work in us that godly sorrow which is not to be repented of. O grant that our souls may be enriched with thy blessing; that our progress in holiness, our love for thy word, and our experience of thy grace, may become daily more enlarged; that we may struggle against everything in our hearts which exalteth itself against thee, and be ever ready to resign ourselves to thy holy disposal. Accept of our thanks for the loving-kindness felt by our souls this day, in thy sanctuary. May the truths which we heard be made effectual for our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; strengthen our memories to remember them, and soften our hearts, that we may feel their power. Let the good hand of the Lord be around us all during the silent watches of the night; forbid that any of us should give sleep to our eyes or slumber to our eyelids, till we have called upon thee in secret, and consigned into thy hands our interests both for time and eternity; hear and graciously answer our several sup-

plications. Bless, O Lord, all who are in distress; the sick and the dying we especially commend to thy care. Call them not into eternity till thou hast made them meet for the inheritance which is on high. May our friends and relations be ever the objects of thy paternal regard, and when we and they have been gathered to our fathers, may we meet in thine own presence, where there are fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore. Be pleased to listen to this, the voice of our supplication; and unto God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, be glory and honor, dominion and praise, world without end. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XIX.

O MOST holy and ever-blessed God, we desire this morning to come to thy footstool, in the name of Christ, penetrated with a sense of our unworthiness, and mourning our apostasy from thee as the alone cause of all our misery. When we think of the dignity with which man was originally invested; of the knowledge, and righteousness, and holiness which characterized his nature; and of the communion which thou didst condescend freely to hold with him; and then examine the present state of our hearts, their ignorance of spiritual things, their unrighteousness and sin, and the disinclination which we naturally cherish for intercourse with our God; it becomes us to lie low in the dust, and confess that the crown has fallen from our heads, and that woe is unto all of us because we are sinners. We lament, O Lord, the provocations which, day after day, we are giving thee; the weakness of our faith; the coldness of our love; the little interest with which we read thy word; the insensibility which often overtakes us in prayer; the sinful thoughts which pervade our minds; the unguarded words which escape from our lips; and the unholy deeds which we perform. Truly may we say that our iniquities have grown over our heads; that we are desperately wicked; that we are the children of wrath, even as others. Eternal thanks be unto the Lord our God, that a Saviour has been provided, through whom we may come into thy presence, and whose merit we may plead as a ground for our forgiveness. We bless thee that this Saviour is revealed unto us in all his freeness, in all his mercy, and in all his grace. O grant that we may be savingly united to him; that our guilt, for his sake, may be pardoned, and our souls cleansed from the pollution of sin. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us for the obedience of thy will; and, amid abounding iniquity, may we be enabled to manifest a walk and conversation becoming the gospel; never shrinking from any trial or persecution into which we may be thrown, for righteousness' sake. Put an end to idolatry and wickedness everywhere; hasten the period when all shall know thee, from the least even to the greatest; when, at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and when all kindreds

and tongues shall call Him blessed. Accept of our thanksgivings for the mercies of the past night and this morning. Be with us in the duties to which we may this day be called. Suffer us never to forget that an omniscient God is present with us, and that a day is fast approaching when a solemn account is to be rendered unto thee for everything done in the body. Keep us ever in thy fear, guide us by thy counsel, and receive us at last to see thy salvation in glory, for Christ our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XI.

Most blessed and gracious Father, thou art infinitely holy, and how shall polluted creatures present themselves before thee; thou art infinitely just, and how shall rebels against thy government come to thy footstool; thou art infinitely wise, and how shall we, who have preferred our own folly, venture to commune with thee. See God our shield, look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. We come not concealing our sins, but, sensible of our great depravity, and of the outrages which we have committed against thy law, that, through the Lord our righteousness, we may be forgiven, and obtain grace to subdue our carnal-mindedness, to deliver us from the evil of sin, and to make us walk more holily before thee in the land of the living. We magnify thy name for the redemption of sinners, for the love which thou bearest to thine own, for the care with which thou watchest over them, and for the comforting assurances which their souls receive from thy Spirit, that they are the heirs of glory. We bless thee for the animating prospects to which thou art encouraging believers to look as their portion when time shall be no more. O make us thy children indeed, interested in the new covenant of grace, and heirs of the promises. May the Holy Spirit dwell within us, to sanctify, and comfort, and enlighten our souls, to give us wisdom to believe the record which thou hast given of thy Son, confidence in the mercy of the dispensation, and more ardent desires after conformity to thy will. Lord, impress upon our minds the dreadful fate of those who continue at a distance from thee, and enable us to strive and pray that they may come to the Saviour, and obtain from him peace, and rest, and eternal joy. Humble thine enemies under the sceptre of mercy, and may the lips that now blaspheme thy name, soon praise and adore the workings of thy sovereign grace.

Thou, O Lord, never slumberest nor sleepest, and we commend ourselves to thy watchful providence during this night. Save us, we beseech thee, from danger and from ill. Never leave us nor forsake us, but keep us in thy fear, and guide us always by thy counsel. May we die the death of the righteous, and may our last end be like his. Hear us in heaven thy dwelling-place, and grant us a gracious answer to this our humble prayer, through Christ, our blessed Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XX.

EVER-BLESSED Jehovah, O enable us, by thy grace, this morning, to draw near unto thee with deep reverence and godly fear. We are thy dependent creatures; thy disobedient children. How shall we approach thy glorious majesty? Thou art the blessed and only potentate; glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Thou art very great: thou art clothed with honor and majesty. Thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment. We prostrate ourselves before thee, humbly supplicating that God would be merciful to us sinners. And blessed be thy glorious name, we are encouraged to approach thee as a gracious Father. Thou hast commanded us to pray always, with all prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. Yea, we have confidence to draw near by that new and living way which Jesus hath opened up and consecrated with his blood. The desire of our souls is to thy name: with our souls have we desired thee in the night, and with our spirits within us will we seek thee early. We rejoice that there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. The blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin. In him, O Lord, may we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

And seeing, O most blessed God, we are in ourselves so weak, and exposed to such dangers from the allurements of the world, the temptations of the deceiver, and the corruptions of our own hearts, may we obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. O Lord, grant us the teaching and the guidance of thy good Spirit, that he may lead us into all truth, and uphold our goings. May we be indeed followers of them who, through faith and patience, are now inheriting the promises; the spiritual children of faithful Abraham, and heirs with him of the grace of God. But may we take no encouragement, from the errors of thy people, to continue in the practice of any known sin, or to fail in any known duty, or to yield to any known temptation. May we never, in any case, do evil that good may come. May we at no time swerve from the truth, but speak every man truth with his neighbor, knowing that the lips of truth shall be established, but that a lying tongue is but for a moment. Make us, in very deed, the followers of Jesus Christ, in whose mouth no guile was found. Hold thou up our goings, that our footsteps slip not. Make thy grace sufficient for us. Let thy word be a lamp unto our path and a light to our feet.

We give thanks unto the Keeper of Israel, for the rest and protection of the past night. We supplicate thy blessing to be upon us throughout the day. Be thou with us in all our employments. Keep us from all evil. Strengthen us for every duty. Enable us to resist every temptation. Grant that, this day, whatsoever we do, in word or in deed, we may do all in the name of Jesus, and giving thanks unto God, even the Father, through him. And unto thee, the Father, the Son, and the blessed Spirit, be all glory ascribed, both now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XII. 1-21.

MOST merciful and most glorious Jehovah, we would, this evening, bow ourselves before thee, the most high God, our creator, our preserver; the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. O teach us how to pray. Give us thy Holy Spirit, the spirit of adoption, whereby we may cry, Abba, Father. We cannot of ourselves order our speech, by reason of darkness. Enable thou us to worship thee in spirit and in truth. Who is a God like unto thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Thou art great, and dost wondrous things; thou art God alone.

We pray, most merciful Father, that we may not be permitted to deceive ourselves. Thee we cannot deceive, for all things are naked and open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Thou searchest the heart and triest the reins, that thou mayest give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. But our hearts are deceitful above all things. Search us, O Lord, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Let us not incur the guilt of those who make religion a cloak to their sins; but may we be enabled to maintain a conscience void of offence toward God and toward man. We give thee thanks for the temporal mercies which we enjoy. But especially do we give thee thanks for the rich provision which thou hast made for the supply of our spiritual wants. Thanks be unto God for Jesus Christ, his unspeakable gift. May he be made unto us righteousness, and wisdom, and sanctification, and redemption.

We bless thee, O God, for the ordinances of religion. The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage. Enable us, O Lord, to value and improve all our privileges. May thy word be dearer to us than thousands of gold or silver: that it may not, at length, be to our condemnation that light hath come into the world. May the sabbath of the Lord ever be to us a delight, the holy of the Lord, and honorable. May we never be contented with that bodily service which profiteth little; but, consecrated to thee in soul, and body, and spirit, present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable through Jesus Christ. We desire to live by faith upon thy Son. We desire to be made partakers of his Spirit, and to be enabled, while discharging, with fidelity, every present duty, to have our affections set upon the things which are above. Make our bodies the temples of the Holy Ghost, and let thy gracious Spirit witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.

We bless thee for all the goodness which thou hast, this day, made to pass before us. In the blood of Jesus blot out all the guilt which we may, this day, have contracted. Take us under thy protection during the night. May the angel of the Lord encamp around us. We would remember thee upon our bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Uphold, protect, and guide us during all the days

and all the nights of our appointed pilgrimage, and at length graciously receive us to the city of habitation; through Jesus Christ our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXI.

BE pleased, O most gracious Father, to look down in mercy upon us thy sinful creatures, while we, this morning, venture to draw near to the footstool of the eternal throne. Let not the Lord be angry that we, who are but dust and ashes, take upon us to speak unto the Most High. See, O God, our shield; look upon us in the face of thine anointed Son. Thine own most gracious invitations encourage us to approach thee. We indeed are less than the least of thy mercies; we have incurred thy just displeasure. We are by nature the children of wrath. If thou, Lord, should mark iniquities, who, O Lord, should stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared; with thee there is mercy and plenteous redemption. Thou art a God that keepeth covenant; faithful and true art thou. In thee, O Lord, we will rejoice, we will be glad in the God of our salvation, for thou hast remembered thy promise, and done great things for us. Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, whose name is Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Thou hast visited and redeemed thy people, and raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of thy servant David.

The Lord grant that this Saviour we may be enabled to follow through good report and through bad report. We pray that thy grace may enable us to submit ourselves willingly to all the dealings of thy most wise and holy providence. In the hour of affliction may we recognize the hand of a merciful and gracious Father, and say, 'It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth to him good.' Sanctify to us all thy visitations, and, according to thy gracious word, cause all things to work together for our good. Heavenly Father, be thou our God and our guide; under trials support us; in dangers defend us; keep thou our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. In the day of our distress lead us to the Rock that is higher than we; and when our spirits are depressed and our souls ready to faint, open thou our eyes, and discover to us the wells of thy salvation, that we may drink, and be refreshed with the waters of life. O let us never wander from the right path, but, as strangers and pilgrims, having our faces Zionward, and our conversation in heaven, may we be ever looking for the coming of the Lord. Let nothing, at any time, seduce us from thy worship. May we walk in all thy ordinances and commandments blameless, showing forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light, as becometh those who are truly thy servants; who are not their own, being bought

with a price, even with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

We desire, with grateful hearts, to thank thee for thy goodness to us during the silent watches of the past night. We laid us down and slept: we awaked; for thy hand sustained us. Be thou our guide and our protection throughout the day. Strengthen us for duty; preserve us from sin. To thy care and blessing we commend the prosperity of Zion, all our friends, and all in whom our hearts are interested. And to thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be all glory, both now and forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XII. 22-50.

'OUR Father which art in heaven,' we adore thine unspeakable condescension in that, though thou art the high and lofty One inhabiting eternity, thou dost permit us to draw near and to address thee as our Father. Thousands of angels surround thy throne, worshipping reverently, and in thy presence veiling their faces with their wings; yet dost thou regard the humble and the contrite among the sons of men, and the prayer of the destitute thou wilt not despise. Thou art graciously revealed as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; and in him, the God and Father of all thy believing people. O give to us thy Spirit, as a Spirit of adoption, and teach us to cry, Abba, Father. Blessed Saviour, we worship thee, as the omniscient One. Thou knowest our thoughts. Thou triest the hearts of the children of men. May we maintain upon our souls an abiding sense of this most solemn truth. May we be enabled ever to walk as seeing him that is invisible. We rejoice in the victory of him who hath spoiled principalities and powers. The Lord grant that we may be indeed with him, zealously devoted to his cause, and ready to follow the Captain of salvation through good report, and through bad report.

O Lord, preserve thou us from all presumptuous sins; let us not resist or gainsay the Spirit of truth: and take not thou thy Holy Spirit away from us. We do most earnestly desire, that thou wouldest enable us to set a watch upon our lips. May we not forget that death and life are in the power of the tongue, that all foolish talking has been forbidden by thee, and that for every idle and sinful word we shall give account. Let our speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, as befits the ransomed of the Lord. The tongue is verily an unruly member; and with our tongues how often have we dishonored thee, murmuring at thy dealings, or uttering words of folly. Do thou, O gracious Father, so purify our souls, and fill them with thy grace, that henceforth, out of the good treasure of the heart, we shall bring forth good things.

We bless thy name, for the abundant evidence with which thou hast favored us of the truth of thy word. Grant that we may

have the witness in ourselves—we being enabled, with open face, to behold the glory of the Lord, and being changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. We exult in the resurrection of our Redeemer from the grave, and that as he died and rose again, so his people shall rise also. O may this hope purify us, even as God is pure.

We thank thee for all the goodness which we have this day enjoyed. O have mercy upon those less highly favored than we. Look down in mercy upon the afflicted, and grant that the Sun of righteousness may speedily shine upon all the kingdoms of this be-nighted world. To thy care and protection, we now commend ourselves. Watch thou over us during the dark hours of night; and if graciously preserved to behold the dawning of another day, when we awake may we feel ourselves with thee. These our humble prayers, we present in the name of Jesus, our ever-blessed Saviour and Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXII.

O LORD, unto thee do we lift up our souls, for thou art God, and there is none else; there is no God beside thee. Clouds and darkness are round about thee, and thy judgments are a great deep; thou doest all thy pleasure, and none can let it, neither may any one say unto thee, What doest thou? Yet thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of thy throne; in thine administration the absolute sovereignty is infinite wisdom and beneficence, and thou doest all things wisely and well.

Whatsoever thy dispensations, it is for us to bow the head and adore; and whatsoever thy commands, it becometh us to say, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. For it hath ever been the experience of thy people, that although weeping may endure for a night, yet joy cometh in the morning, and that verily the Lord is pitiful and of tender mercy. But, alas, we are prone to take counsel of flesh and blood, and so it comes to pass, that whilst the convinced judgment willetth one thing, the affections will a quite different thing; that what we would, that we do not, but what we hate, that we do; for there is a law in our members, warring against the law of our minds, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members. O wretched men that we are! who shall deliver us from the body of this death? May he, whom thou hast anointed to open the prison doors, set us free. May he work in us, by his Spirit, that faith which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen; that faith, in the exercise of which, thy servant was of old enabled to offer up his only begotten son, as believing that what thou willest must be best, and that thy faithfulness in keeping covenant and promise would be

made to appear, notwithstanding every difficulty, yea, and every apparent impossibility. May he also, by the same Spirit, shed abroad the love of God in our hearts, and thus rule over us by the law and sceptre appropriate to his kingdom—the law and sceptre of love, May he thus make us willing and obedient, and enable us to say, We delight to do thy will, O our God; yea, thy law is within our heart.

We desire to render unto thee hearty thanks for the mercies of the past night. We bless thee that thou hast spared us to see the light of another day, and that thou art continuing to supply our wants as heretofore. Above all, we would say, thanks be unto God for Jesus Christ, his unspeakable gift. In him may we be found: through his blood may we obtain the remission of all our sins, with a covenant right and title to all the other benefits of his mediation.

We beseech thee to be with us this day, in our going out and coming in. Help us to set thee continually before our face. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. We cast ourselves on thy care; care thou for us. Hear us, O God, and forgive and accept, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XIII. 1-23.

BLESSED and everlasting Lord God, unto whom can we go but unto thee? Thou knowest our frame, thou rememberest that we are dust, and thou hast the words of eternal life. We would make mention of the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ; we would give thee thanks that thou hast filled our mouth with that prevailing argument; and feeling that we cannot hope to be heard for aught that is in ourselves, we would beseech thee to behold our Shield, and to look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. Truly, O God, thou keepest covenant and promise, and thy words be true. Thou causest the west wind to awake, and the south to come; and under their warm influence the snows of winter are dissolved, and the sealed fountains set free, and the earth covered over with a carpet of green. From summer to summer thou visitest the earth and waterest it; thou makest it soft with showers, and thou blessest the springing thereof; the pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn: they shout for joy, they also sing. And thus, according to thy promise, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and seed-time and harvest do not cease; thine hand is opened liberally, and the desire of every living thing is satisfied. Other and more precious seed, even the word of the kingdom, thou wouldest sow in men's hearts, and wouldest cherish it into life by the warm and refreshing influences of thy grace, and wouldest fill all the world with the fragrant fruits of holiness. But, alas, whilst all else is in readiness we are still backward; and too often, when the word has been cast into the ear, we do not meditate upon it day and night, so

that it may pass downward into the heart and take root there ; or if, in the day of visitation, and when our soul is poured out within us, we receive it with joy, and speak of it with delight, yet, when trial comes, we do too often fall, and our new experience passeth away as the morning cloud and the early dew ; or, although we may wait with regularity upon the preaching of the word, and abound with the leaves of profession, yet we are so beset with cares respecting the present world, and so allured by its pleasures and its gains, that we may well fear that we are bringing no fruit unto perfection. Yet all this while, season after season is passing away, and we know that if we bear not the fruits of righteousness here, we shall never be transplanted into the paradise of God above. Out of the depths, therefore, would we cry unto thee, O God. Visit us with thy salvation. Take away our hard and stony hearts, and give us hearts of flesh. Make the tree good, and the fruit shall be good also. O when wilt thou come unto us? Wilt thou not revive us, O our God? Our trust is in thee, our hope is in thy word. Well-pleased thou hearest the voice of thy Son's intercession, and rejoicest to glorify his worthy name in the salvation of sinners. Save us, we beseech thee, for his name's sake, and make us, in all respects, what thou wouldest have us to be. Accept of thanksgiving for the mercies we have this day received. Pardon us, we beseech thee, wherein we have done amiss. Look, in thy mercy, upon all the sons and daughters of affliction. Send us, in thy goodness, sound and refreshing sleep. May we lie down in thy fear, and awake in thy favor. Hear, and pardon, and accept, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXIV.

LORD, thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations. Even to old age thou art he, and even to hoary hairs thou dost carry them ; thou causest them to flourish like the palm-tree, and to grow like a cedar in Lebanon ; whom thou lovest thou lovest unto the end ; through thy grace they still bring forth fruit in old age, and thou blessest them in all things. Happy, therefore, is that people that is in such a case ; yea, happy is that man whose God is the Lord. As for us, we confess that iniquities prevail against us. Careful, and troubled about many things, we ask with solicitude, what shall we eat, and what shall we drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed? And we remember not the word which saith, 'seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.' Neither, in the arrangements which we make for ourselves, or for those whom thou hast given us in charge, do we set thee sufficiently before our face, nor do we frame them in subserviency to thy glory and our own salvation, but are prone to consult chiefly for worldly advancement, and for the happiness which we imagine is to be found in it. Lord, pardon thy ser-

vants in this and all other things. Enter not into judgment with us; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified in virtue of his own doings. But although we are unworthy, yet Christ is worthy. For his name's sake blot out all our iniquities. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress, so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God until he have mercy upon us. And we beseech thee, O God, put power into thy word, and teach us effectually that one thing is needful. Make us to know our end and the measure of our days, what it is, that we may know how frail we are. Behold, thou hast made our days as an handbreadth; and our age is as nothing before thee: verily, every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Believing these things may we seek to lay up enduring riches in that place where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. And in every connection which we form, and every enterprise which we undertake, may we have an eye to thy glory and our own spiritual well-being. Accept, O God, our thanksgivings for thy goodness during the past night. To thee we are indebted for our preservation from one day to another; thou carest for us far more and far better than we are able to care for ourselves. We beseech thee to look in compassion upon those who have been full of tossing to and fro until the dawning of the day. Heal their diseases, if it be thy will. O spare them, that they may recover strength, before they go hence and be no more. Sanctify their affliction, and grant that no separation may take place between soul and body, until a full and a final separation has been effected between their souls and their sins. Be with us this day in our going out and coming in. Keep us from evil, that it may not grieve us. Hear us in these our petitions, and, when thou hearest, forgive for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XIII. 24—58.

HEAVENLY Father, we desire, at the conclusion of another day, to draw nigh unto thee in a social and family capacity. Be pleased thyself to draw us as with the cords of affection and the bands of love. Give us to say, with the ardent aspirations of thy servant in the old time, As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth our soul after thee, O God.

We would give thee thanks that thou hast set up a kingdom in this our world—a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and against which the gates of hell shall not be suffered to prevail. We would rejoice in the measure of success which this kingdom, so small in its beginnings, hath already had. Hasten, we beseech thee, the latter-day glory. May the time soon come when thou wilt give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession; when in every land he shall see of the travail of

his soul and be satisfied. We thank thee more especially that this kingdom hath been set up amongst ourselves, and that we have been born in a land of ordinances and a valley of vision. O may we of this household be made willing and obedient subjects of Messiah's kingdom; so that when the summer is past and the harvest is come, our souls may not be gathered with sinners, but may be bound up in the bundle of life. What we ask for ourselves, we would also beseech in behalf of all whom we ought to bear upon our spirits at a throne of grace. Set up a throne in the heart of each one of our friends, and an altar in all their families. Bless them with thy blessing, even life everlasting. Everywhere restrain abounding sin; let the people praise thee, let all the people praise thee.

We beseech thee to pardon the sins of which we have this day been guilty; for alas, there is no day in all our lives which bears not the mark upon it of some wickedness committed against thee; and that thou art sparing us alive, and continuing to supply our wants, and giving us time and opportunity for repentance; this is not because thou seest any goodness in us, but because thy compassions fail not, and because thy mercy endureth forever.

We would commit ourselves to thy care. Watch over us during the watches of the night; preserve us, we entreat thee, from the pestilence that walketh in darkness. Spare us, if it be thy will, that we may see the light of a new day; and enable us to spend all the days of our pilgrimage here in thy fear and service. Guide us with thy counsel while we live, and afterward receive us to glory. And now unto thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXVII.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we thank thee for all the goodness and mercy which thou hast made to pass before us; for the temporal blessings with which thou hast crowned our lot, and the forbearance with which thou hast followed us in the midst of multiplied provocations and aggravated sins. Above all, we thank thee for the provision which thou hast made for the safety of our immortal souls in the scheme of salvation by Christ Jesus. We thank thee for the promises made unto the fathers, and for the mercy and faithfulness with which thou hast fulfilled these promises in all generations. We praise thy name, that when the fulness of the times had come, thou didst send forth thy Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, and that we might receive the adoption of sons. And we would rejoice together, that through him, whosoever believeth in him is justified from all his iniquities. We confess our sins before thee, and our need of a Saviour, and of salvation by his atoning blood. Convince us of sin; bring us in deep self-abasement and humility of

soul to the cross of Christ, and give us grace to believe in the name of the Son of God. May we receive him into our hearts, as all our salvation, and all our desire and, giving ourselves to him in the bonds of an everlasting covenant, may we walk so as to please him, and have our fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Save us and our fellow-believers from a spirit of unbelief. May we profit by the example of the saints, whether it be intended to warn us of our danger, or to animate us to growing diligence in the work of our salvation. May the errors into which they fell through an evil heart of unbelief, be the means of saving us from sinning against God in a similar manner; and may we ever be followers of their faith and patience. Lord, lead us not into temptation; keep us from dishonoring thee, by distrusting the promises of thy word, and limiting the holy One of Israel; and employing any means but those which God has sanctioned and approved for the fulfilment of his purposes, and the promotion of the good of others. Be at our right hand this day that we may not be moved. Stablish our hearts in thy fear; strengthen us for every duty, and for every temptation; and whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to thy glory. Bless all who are near and dear to us. Encompass them with thy favor as with a shield. Bless all mankind. Let the people praise thee: let all the people praise thee. May thy kingdom come; and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Hear in heaven, thy dwelling-place; and whilst thou hearest, forgive: for all that we would ask is in the name, and through the merits, of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XIV.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the King eternal, immortal, and invisible—the only wise God. Thou doest according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, What doest thou? Thou makest the wrath of man to praise thee, and restrainest the remainder of his wrath. All things are under thy control, and thou hast arranged every event in Providence for the glory of thy great name, and the good of thy people.

We bless thee, O Lord, that thou hast cast our lot in a land of Christian light and liberty. We thank thee that thou hast given us the knowledge of the everlasting gospel; and that we are permitted to make profession of our faith under the protection of the civil authority. Give us grace to value and to improve our privileges: and to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We desire to acknowledge, with deep humility, the sinfulness and depravity of our hearts; the estrangement of our affections from thee, and the numberless transgressions which we have committed

against thee. We have broken thy commandments times and ways without number; we have despised the warning voice of thy providence; we have turned a deaf ear to the merciful invitations of the gospel. Our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; we are altogether as an unclean thing in thy presence.

Blessed be thy name, there is a fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness, for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. In the riches of thy compassion thou hast sent thine only begotten Son to be the propitiation for our sins. It is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that he came into the world to save sinners. O God, do thou give us an interest in him. Wash us from all our iniquities in his atoning blood; clothe us with his all-perfect righteousness, and impart to our souls the peace which has been purchased through the blood of the cross, the peace which passeth all understanding; and the joy in believing which is full of glory. And save us from the power of sin, and enable us to walk in the paths of righteousness for thy name's sake.

Blessed Jesus, thou who didst feed the hungry and heal the sick, do thou evermore feed our souls with the bread of life. Heal our backslidings, receive us graciously, and love us freely; and enable us to render unto thee the calves of our lips. In every season of difficulty and danger, be thou present to deliver us: that our souls may live and praise thy name.

Preserve us, O God, during the darkness of this night. Give us refreshing sleep: and if it be thy holy will, do thou raise us up on the morning of the sabbath day. We would hail with gladness, the approach of this day of holy rest. May we be prepared for improving it aright. May thy name be hallowed, and may our sabbaths on earth be anticipations of the rest which remaineth for the people of God, in heaven. We commend to thy holy keeping, all who are near and dear to us. May they be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus. We pray for all men. May the knowledge of the Lord soon cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. In every place may incense and a pure offering be presented to the Lord. Comfort the afflicted: prepare the dying for death, and teach us to live in mind of our latter end. Hear our prayers, and accept of us in Christ Jesus our Lord, and to thy name be the glory. Amen.

Fourth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS XIV. XV. XVI.

GRACIOUS and merciful Jehovah, we look up to thee as the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Thou didst

breathe into our nostrils the breath of life, and thy merciful visitation sustains our spirits. We lay ourselves down and sleep: we awake again; for thou, Lord, sustainest us. We thank thee that thou hast been pleased to spare us to behold the light of this day. We bless thee that it is the day which thou hast made; the day of the Lord. May we have grace to account it a delight, the holy of the Lord and honorable; and may we be enabled to honor it, not thinking our own thoughts, or speaking our own words, or doing our own works. Especially may we be enabled to remember, with faith and holy joy, that on this day of the week our blessed Redeemer rose from the dead; the first-fruits of them that sleep; and may we have it, as the testimony of our consciences, that we are risen together with him, our affections being set on the things which are above; the things which are at the right hand of God, where Jesus Christ sitteth. May we be in the Spirit on thy holy day, spiritually minded, which is life and peace.

We would confess, with deep humility, our misimprovement of the means of grace, and the scantiness and deficiency of the fruit which we have brought forth unto thee. Justly mightest thou say, with regard to us, 'Cut them down, why cumber they the ground?' and justly mightest thou remove our candlestick out of its place, and give our privileges to others who should bring forth more abundantly than we the fruits of righteousness. But, behold, thou waitest to be gracious. Thou continuest to give us free access to a throne of grace. Our eyes see our teachers; and, on each returning sabbath, we hear the call addressed to us, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.' Mercifully forgive our unworthiness; cast all our sins behind thy back, and visit us, this day, with the light of thy countenance and the joy of thy salvation. May we profit by every opening of the mouth, and know, in our happy experience, that it is good for us to draw near to God.

Thou hast said that thou wilt dwell with him that is of an humble and contrite spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the hearts of the contrite ones. Visit, this day, we beseech thee, the tabernacles of Jacob, and supply the wants of thy people who may be reluctantly detained from the house of prayer. Speak peace to their souls, and give them bread to eat which the world knoweth not. Have mercy on the sabbath-breaker, and the despiser of thine ordinances, and give them true repentance ere it be too late, and their feet stumble on the dark mountains.

Go forth with thy servants everywhere in the preaching of the everlasting gospel. Let thy word have free course and be glorified. May the ignorant be enlightened. May the hardened and impenitent be convinced. May the mourner be comforted. May believers be built up in thy holy faith. May this day be a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; and may great grace be upon us all. And to thy name, in Christ, be all the praise. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING—PSALM XVII.

O LORD, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty. Thine understanding is infinite—thy wisdom is unsearchable—thy kingdom ruleth over all. When we consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained, it well becomes us to say, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? Blessed be thy name, unworthy though we be, thou hast permitted, yea, commanded, us in Christ Jesus to regard thee as the object of our confidence and love;—in our perplexities to look to thee for wisdom to direct us, in the consciousness of guilt and sinfulness to cast the burden of our sins and our infirmities upon thee; and in the hour of temptation and duty, to rely on the grace which thou hast promised to give us abundantly. Thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in the generations that are past, and thou wilt be their refuge and their strength in the generations that are yet to come. May it be given unto us to believe on the name of the Son of God, and believing, may we have life through his name. May Christ be made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

We unite in thanking thee, O Lord, for the mercies and the privileges of this thy holy day; for the opportunities which we have enjoyed in public or in private of waiting upon thee, and for every good impression which may have been made upon our minds by the ordinances of thine appointment. We would be humbled before thee when we think of the sins of our holy things, of the distraction of our minds, and the coldness of our affections while engaged in the solemn services of religion; and the imperfection that has cleaved to our purest desires and our most holy and devout aspirations. Lord, show us thy mercy in the forgiveness of the sins of this day, and in pouring out so rich and abundant a blessing on our solemn religious observances, as shall assure our hearts before thee, and enable us on looking back on this day's spiritual sacrifices, to say that, a day spent in thy courts is better than a thousand.

Gracious Lord, perfect that which concerneth us. Confirm every good impression made in the private exercises of religion, or in the house of prayer. Hold up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps may not slip. We know that thou wilt hear us; keep us as the apple of thine eye: and let not our spiritual enemies prevail over us: Give us the victory over the fear of man: and animate us to steadfast and persevering obedience by the assured hope of a glorious resurrection.

Bless thy word preached and heard this day. Let not the seed which has been sown, be caught away by the wicked one, or wither away before temptation and persecution, or be choked by the cares, or the pleasures, or the riches of the world; but may it be as good seed sown in a good soil, and bring forth in some a hundred fold, in some sixty, in some thirty.

Watch over us during the darkness of the night, and, if it be thy will, raise us up in health and comfort on the morning of the coming day. Prepare us for all thy will and all our duty. May goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life; and may we dwell in the house of the Lord forever. For all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to whom, with the Father and blessed Spirit, be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXVIII.

BLESS the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us be stirred up to bless and to magnify his holy name. It is a pleasant thing to give thanks unto the Lord; to sing praises unto thee, O thou Most High; to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Thou hast never left thyself without a witness on the earth: we would remember the wonders done of old, O thou Spirit, who didst speak to the fathers by the prophets. Thou art he who made a covenant with Abraham; who taught thy servant Moses from the flame of fire in the bush; who gave the living oracles from Sinai; who brought up Israel from Egypt, through the wilderness; who showed beforehand to thy church, by type and symbol, the great things which were to come. In these last days thou hast spoken to us by thine own Son. We have seen what many of old sought to see, and were not permitted; we have boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. Our souls would magnify the Lord; our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour. Now, lettest thou thy servants depart in peace, for our eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Israel. O God, help us to see that we need a Saviour; help us to feel that the Lord Jesus Christ is the very Saviour we need; deliver us from the pride of heart which prevents men from embracing so humbling a salvation as the gospel of his grace proclaims; dispose us to accept of him humbly and heartily in all his offices, as our Prophet, and Priest, and King. He is the only mediator between God and men; by him alone have we privilege of access to thee; our only hope of heaven is in thy mercy through his blood. The Lord make us partakers of his righteousness; the Lord renew us after his image; the Lord sanctify us through his truth. We believe in him; help thou our unbelief. Build us up, stablish, strengthen, settle us in the faith; every day may we be drawing out of his fulness and living to him. And O evermore, give us to enjoy the consolations of his word in affliction; to be guided by his counsel in difficulty and peril; to be strengthened by his grace and truth in times of temptation. May we find him an ever-present God; may we never be ashamed to confess him, and to remember him in his ordinances; may we devote ourselves heart and soul to his service, and find strength to

keep our vows. Lord, bless this family and all connected with us. Be thou our Shepherd, and we shall never want. Deliver us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and from the arrow that wasteth at noon-day; hide us in thy pavilion, and let thy banner over us be love. Sanctify to us every sabbath we spend, every chapter of thy bible we read, every prayer we offer up together at thy footstool; and let us never forget, that to whom much is given, of them much will be required. Hear in heaven thy dwelling-place, our morning supplications, and forgive us, and accept of us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XV.

O LORD, we would receive it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. In his name, and through his merit, we would approach thee in prayer; our only hope of thy favor is for the sake of what he did and suffered for us. O do thou show us more and more of the perfection of his sacrifice, and the fulness of his compassions, and the riches and freeness of his grace. Do thou send down the Spirit of truth to open our understandings, that we may understand aright those things which are spoken of him in the scriptures. Do thou unite us to him by true and living faith; do thou dispose us to cleave unto him as the Lord our righteousness, and the Lord our strength, that our inmost hearts may cry out, None but Christ, none but Christ! O let our souls be nourished by him, from day to day as the hidden manna—the bread which came down from heaven—and when they are ready to faint, let him be to us as water in the wilderness, as a spring in the desert. Lord, deliver us from the hypocrisy of those who desire to appear righteous before men; who are satisfied with a barren profession; who have a name to live while they are dead. God forbid that ours should be merely a religion of show. Create thou in us clean hearts; renew a right spirit within us; and by our daily walk and conversation, may we approve the sincerity of our faith. Our earnest cry, morning and evening, would be, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on us. O give us grace, to be humble, and importunate, and persevering in our devotions; let us wait patiently on the Lord, and though he slay us, still trust in him. Lord, we pray for the downfall of Satan's kingdom, and the triumphs of the Redeemer's cause among the heathen nations; we pray for peace and charity among all of every name, to whom the tidings of salvation have come; we pray that our Rulers may govern wisely and righteously our native land; we pray for our beloved Zion, that grace may be poured out abundantly on all the ministers and all the congregations; we pray for the sick, the afflicted, and the dying: that all may find thee a very present help in time of trouble. Accept of our thanks for thy good-

ness to us during the past day ; we commit us to thy care and keeping during the watches of the night ; underneath us ever be thine everlasting arms. Hear and answer us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXIX.

O LORD, thou hast said, that whatever we ask of thee in the name of the Lord Jesus, believing, we shall receive. Lord, we believe ; help thou our unbelief. We are by nature under the condemnation of the law ; justify us through the blood of the great sacrifice. We are corrupted in thought, and word, and deed ; renew us after thine own image. Our understandings are darkened : enlighten us by thy good spirit. Our hearts are cold and hard ; touch us with a live coal from off thine altar ; say unto us, Live ; yea, say unto us, Live, and the time will be a time of love. We are weak and helpless in ourselves ; let thy grace be sufficient for us ; strengthen the things which remain and are ready to die. We are dust, and return to dust again ; raise us up together, and make us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. O help us with all our heart, and all our soul, to love him who first loved us ; may the love of Christ be the quickening, ruling principle of our lives ; may we count all things but loss and dung, that we may be found in him, and do his will. Lord, deliver us from pride, from hypocrisy, from envy, from all uncharitableness. Put it into our hearts to hate all fraud and deceit ; to be honest in all our ways ; ever to do to others as we would that others should do to us. Give us that charity which is the bond of perfectness, which hopeth and believeth, and endureth all things ; and impress on us evermore, the new commandment of our Lord to his disciples, 'that they should love one another as he loved them.' Accept of our thanksgiving for thy preservation of us during the night that is past ; take us this day under thy care and keeping ; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil ; and all we ask is in the name of Jesus, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XVI.

O LORD, in thy presence, and at thy footstool, we would plead no other merits than the life and death of Jesus Christ. We believe that he is indeed the Christ, the Son of the most high God ; that he is the Messiah who should come, and that we are to look for no other. Thanks be unto him who came in the name of the Lord to save us ; hosannah in the highest ! Surely he hath borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows ; he hath loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood ; he is willing to save to the uttermost all who come unto him. See, O God, our Shield. Our souls would magnify the Lord ; our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour. O thou who hast given thy Son for us, and wilt, for his sake, refuse no good thing to them that ask thee, give us faith in the acceptance of his finished work ; make him unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption ; help us to flee for refuge to the hope of his gospel, and to rest in him as all our salvation, and all our desire. Lord, thou knowest our hearts ; speak to us, this evening, a word in season. If our burden be a heart of unbelief, lift on us the light of thy truth, and scatter all our doubts ; if we are weary and heavy-laden, give us the rest of the covenant ; if we have a name to live while we are dead, the Lord send even on us an unction from the Holy One ; if we are at ease in sin, without spending a serious thought on death and hell, the Lord say unto us, live ; if we are panting after the dust of the earth, and laying up our treasures here, O show us the vanity of this world's cares and enjoyments, raise us up out of the fearful pit, out of the miry clay, and put a new song in our mouths, even praise to our God. We confess before thee the sins of the day ; we resign us to thy keeping during the night. Dwell thou ever in our household. While we live, may we live to thee ; and when thou callest us hence, may death be gain to us. Hear and accept of us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXXI.

O GOD of Jacob, we would approach thee in the name of Jesus, and adore thee in the glorious and endearing character of an electing, a loving, a redeeming, a covenant-making, and covenant-keeping God. We would bless thee for the bible, that reveals thy character, and contains a record of thy dealings with thy people of old. We would rejoice in believing that, however mysterious may be the ways in which thou leadest the objects of thy wondrous love, thou wilt keep them as the apple of thine eye, and bring them at last, by the right way, into a city of habitation. Be pleased to make an everlasting covenant with each one of us, and to manifest thyself unto us, in another way than thou dost unto the world. Dwell in our house as in thy Bethel, and let thy Spirit dwell in our hearts as in his holy temple. Visit us with those communications of thy grace, and intimations of thy love, and manifestations of thy glory, where-with thou art sometimes pleased to refresh the souls, and lighten the burdens, and sweeten the troubles, and guide the steps, and animate the hopes, and elevate the affections of thy weary people. Of these unspeakably precious privileges we are utterly unworthy, for our sins are more numerous and aggravated than tongue can tell or heart conceive ; but worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and in *him* thou

art at once a just God and a Saviour. Behold, O God, our Shield Thou, in the riches of thy grace, and wonders of thy love, hast been pleased to appoint thy Son to be thy people's shield from the corruption of their own nature, the fiery darts of the wicked one, the temptations of the world, and the curse of a broken law. Enable us, by thy Spirit, to put on and employ aright this shield for the purposes for which it is provided. Let Christ be our all and in all. Let him be precious to each one of us. In our wants let us have faith wherewith to draw out of his fulness; in our weakness let us be found leaning on him for strength; in our fears let us realize the might of Jesus; in our transactions with our fellow-creatures let us imitate his example; and in the multitude of our thoughts within us, about sin, and the world, and salvation, and death, and eternity, let Calvary's cross be the star to guide us; and the grace of the Sufferer the theme of our praise, and the foundation of our hopes. Whatever be thy dealings with us this day, forbid that we should dishonor thy name, or grieve thy Spirit; and however painful may be the duties or trials to which we may be called, let us be supported under them by the assurance we have that the God of Jacob changeth not, and that those whom he hath once loved, he loveth, and guideth, and protecteth unto the end. Should the world frown on us, let us have the smiles of thy countenance. Should we be in perplexity, let the God of Bethel direct us. If enemies pursue our souls, let us know thee as our hiding-place. If we be called to sickness or death, let the Lord hear, and the name of the God of Jacob defend us. With ourselves we would bear on our spirits all with whom we are connected. May they be a seal on the heart and on the arm of the great high priest before the throne. May our friends be friends of Jesus, and may our enemies receive forgiveness through his blood. Let all the children of affliction be sanctified and comforted by the Holy Ghost. Let the dying be prepared for their great change. Let the troubled in mind have from thyself the peace which the world cannot give. Let ministers of the gospel be faithful and successful. Let thy kingdom come. Hasten the time, Lord, when the posterity of Jacob shall believe in Jacob's God, and when all the nations of the earth shall be blest in Jesus Christ, and participate in the glories of his reign. We would thank thee for thy care of us through the past night, and for the mercies of the morning. We would bless thee for all thy goodness towards us in time past. Whatever trials we may have experienced we still acknowledge that we have more reason to sing of mercy than of judgment, and it is because thy compassions fail not that we are not consumed. Help us to honor thee through the day. Keep us from evil. Sanctify us wholly. Let no weapon formed against us prosper. Let us be found in Christ, and then we shall be safe in life, and death, and through eternity. Hear, pardon, and accept us for his sake, and the glory shall ever be thine in him. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XVII.

O LORD God, thou art the wonderful one. Thou art wonderful in thyself, and wonderful in all thy works and ways. Thou art specially wonderful in thy redeeming love. We would bless thee for a Saviour, and *that* Saviour every way worthy of the God that provided him, and infinitely suited to the guilt and misery of the poor objects for whom he is provided. May it be given us, on his behalf, to believe in his name, and to behold his glory. May we now so realize thy gracious presence, as that we shall have reason to say from our sweet experience, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here.' Let us feel our hard hearts melted and enlarged by a sense of our personal interest in Jesus; and let the eyes of our minds be so opened, as that we shall behold the evil of sin, and the worthlessness of everything worldly, in comparison with the excellency of the knowledge of thy beloved Son, in whom thou hast declared thyself well-pleased. Holy Father, enable us, by thy Spirit, to accept him as our friend, by loving him; as our guide, by following him; as our Saviour, by trusting in him. Let us have pardon of sin, and peace with thee through his blood. As thou art well-pleased with him, be well-pleased with us for his sake. Adopt us into thy family. Give us thy Holy Spirit. Create in us clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us. Draw the desires of our souls towards thyself; and while we remain in the world, let us live near to thee, and by the faith of thy Son. Let us realize and exhibit to the world the constraining influence of his love. O let us be dying daily to sin, and living continually to the praise of the glory of thy grace. We would confess and lament the many sins of omission and commission, whereof we have been this day guilty. We are indeed great sinners. What a mercy to know that thy Son is a great Saviour, and that, where our sin aboundeth, thy grace doth much more abound. Make us debtors to the riches of thy grace, in Christ Jesus, for pardon and eternal life. We would praise thee for the many comforts of the day. It is to thy unmerited goodness we are indebted for every comfort. We desire to be enabled to bless thee even for our troubles. It surely becometh us to bless the Lord at all times, and in all circumstances. We would bless the God that withholdeth or taketh away, as well as the God that giveth. We would love the God that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, as well as the God that shineth on our tabernacle. What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits to us? O to have hearts to love and praise thee! O to be enabled to say with Job, 'Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.' We desire to commit ourselves and all our concerns to thy holy and fatherly keeping through the night. Enable us to do it with the confidence of children. Be a wall of fire and defence around us and our dwelling. Take charge of all whom we ought to remember before thee. Upon our relatives, and well-wishers, and benefactors, we implore thy special blessing. For our ene-

mies we implore forgiveness. Lord, increase our faith, that we may do it from the heart. The sick, and the afflicted, and the poor, and the dying, we would remember with compassion and sympathy. May their diseases be healed, and their wants supplied, and their spirits supported, and saved by the gracious Redeemer at thy right hand. We would pray for ministers at home, and missionaries abroad. May they have the spirit and presence of their Master, and labor successfully in his strength. We pray for the edification of saints and the conversion of sinners. In the seed of Abraham we feel a peculiar interest. Lord, send deliverance to Jacob. Gather the outcasts of Israel. Let them be taught by thyself that Moses and Elias have surrendered their commissions to Jesus of Nazareth.

Let idolatry cease everywhere, and Jesus be crowned Lord of the whole earth. Now, Lord, forgive the sin of this approach unto thy presence. Prepare us for whatever thou art preparing for us. Prepare us for the solemnities of a dying hour, and for the still more awful solemnities of a judgment-day. And do all for thine own Son's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXXII.

O THOU holy One of Israel, graciously condescend to look on us now in the face of thine Anointed Son. We would bless thee for *him*, and for all the privileges we receive for his sake. We would bless thee for thy holy word, and for that portion of it, wherewith we have been favored. Give us thy holy Spirit, that he may enable us to accept Jesus, as he is freely and fully offered; and that he may beget in our souls a holy understanding, and relish, and remembrance of thy word. We would admire and adore that God who sent his angels to meet Jacob at Mahanaim; that God who personally wrestled with him at Peniel; that God who preserved him from Esau, and who fulfilled the promise he had given at Bethel. We need direction and salvation as much as ever Jacob did. Give us what we need out of thine own riches in glory. We deserve nothing good, but thou delightest in mercy, and art more willing to give than we are to take. O may the Spirit of grace subdue our iniquities, renew our wills, enlighten our minds, and fill us with thy peace. May thine angels minister unto us. May our souls be found in Christ—washed in his blood—clothed in his righteousness, and conformed to his image. May we have direction in difficulty, support under trial, strength for duty, and victory over our spiritual enemies. Of ourselves, we are weak and ignorant, prone to evil, and exposed to innumerable dangers. But united to the Lord Jesus, and exercising faith on his fulness, and strength, and sufficiency, we can do all things that thou requirest of us. Let us go through the wilderness leaning on him, and drawing by faith out of his fulness, the supply of every want and grace to help us in every

time of need. Let us be found walking with God, living near unto him, enjoying a sense of his love, and realizing a covenant interest in the God of Jacob. Preserve us from seeking our own wills and ways. Let thy glory be continually in our view; and as we are not our own, but bought with a price, let us not fail to deny ourselves, to take up the cross, and to follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth: enduring, as seeing thee who art invisible, and purifying our hearts, and conversation, and conduct by faith; so that when the solemnities of death overtake us, we may be found meet for the enjoyment of that rest that remaineth to thy people.

We would thank thee for thy tender and gracious care of us through the past night, and for the health, food, and raiment, and other mercies of the morning. We desire to remember before thee, all that are dear to us. May they be objects of thy providential care, and subjects of thy saving grace! If we have enemies, Lord, do thou forgive them, and increase our faith, that we may forgive them from the heart. Have mercy on the children of affliction. Spare useful lives. Prepare for death such as are appointed to die. Bless with thy favor, and with the reviving, and sanctifying influences of thy Spirit, the established church in our land, and every other denomination of professing Christians that desire the glory of thy name, and put their seal to the truth of thy holy word; and let the time soon come, when divisions of human contrivance shall cease, and when, as there is but one Lord, there shall be but one faith. Let thy presence be with all faithful ministers of the gospel, in public and in private; and O forbid that they should forget the account they have to render to thee of the trust committed to them. Let the seed of Jacob, scattered everywhere, be gathered unto Shiloh; and let the idolatry of pagans and papists be destroyed by the brightness of the coming of the Son of man.

We now desire to commit ourselves to thy holy care and keeping through the day. Let the peace of God that passeth understanding, fill, and keep our hearts and minds; and do thou perfect whatever concerneth us. Pardon the sins of this approach unto thy presence. Wash our persons and services in the blood of the Lamb, and the glory shall be ascribed to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XVIII.

O LORD, thou art the high and holy One, in whose presence the holy angels veil their faces and their feet with their wings; yet, high and holy as thou art, thou condescendest to dwell on earth with the man that is of a contrite and humble spirit. To the lowly in heart thou hast respect, but the proud thou beholdest afar off. We would bless thee, this evening and forever, for what thou art in thyself, and for what thou art to us in Christ Jesus. Glory be unto that God that hath so loved us as to have sent his Son to die for us.

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift, and thanks be unto him that consented to be given, and came in the name of the Lord, to seek and to save that which was lost. All of us are lost by nature. By the fall of our first parents we have become guilty, corrupt creatures. We were shapen in iniquity and conceived in sin. In our flesh there dwelleth no good thing. Our hearts, that were originally intended to be a temple and throne to the God that made us, have become nests of every unclean bird. They are indeed deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Our conduct is in correspondence with the state of our hearts. Lord, convert us to thyself. Create in us clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us. We have now read and heard from thy word, that except we be converted, and become as little children, we shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Give us thy holy Spirit, that he may quicken our souls by uniting us to Jesus. Let Christ be in us by his word and Spirit, and let us be in him by a living faith. Let us be made humble, and meek, and docile, and inoffensive, and forgiving as little children. Let us bear the image of the God that made, and the Saviour that redeemed us. Forbid that any of us should deceive himself, or be deceived by others, with respect to his spiritual condition. All of us are too prone to be vain, and proud, and selfish, and unforgiving. Let us be brought to the cross of Christ, that in its light we may see what we are, what we have done, what we have deserved, and what grace must make us before we can see God. Let the life we henceforth live be a life of faith on the Son of God; a life of holy and uniform obedience to thy law; a life of weanedness of heart from sin and the world; a life of unreserved devotedness to the praise of the glory of thy grace. Let us realize, in our hearts and consciences, a vital and spiritual union to Christ. Let us feel the efficacy of the atonement he hath made, and let our conduct, in the various relations of life, exhibit the power of genuine godliness. We would bless thee for the many mercies of the past day. We cannot number them all. Surely thou art to us a gracious God. We pray for the forgiveness of the many sins whereof we have been guilty. We would pray for mercy, not merely to ourselves, but to all that need it. Do thou cause thy salvation to be known and believed by all men. Let the unbelief of the Jews be ended. Give them thy Spirit, as a spirit of grace and supplication, and then they shall look to him whom they have pierced, and be saved. Put an end to the idolatry of papists and pagans, and the delusions of Mahomet. Reform and purify the Protestant churches. Unite them as one family. Bless our rulers and all the inhabitants of our land. May they be a holy people unto the Lord. Pity the sick and the dying. Comfort all that mourn. Be the help of all that have no help in man. Let travellers, on sea or land, be under thy protection. Let widows and orphans find mercy in thee. Let our friends and well-wishers be children of thine own, and realize their adoption into thy family. Forgive all our enemies, and bless them with the spirit that will make them our friends. Watch over us through the night. May the Shepherd of Israel be our shepherd. Prepare us for all the

events before us. As our days are may our strength be. Living or dying, may we be found in Christ, for all we ask is for his sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXXIII.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, we approach the footstool of thy throne this morning with grateful hearts, to make mention of thy loving-kindness and tender mercy. Thou art the author of our life, and to thee we are indebted for every blessing which sweetens life, and renders it in any measure comfortable and happy. By thee we were called into being, and thy kind providence has hitherto sustained us. Ever since we drew the breath of life, thou hast watched over us with all the tenderness and affection of a loving parent; and amid much forgetfulness of thee, thou hast never for a single day nor a single hour been unmindful of us, but hast daily loaded us with thy benefits; so that in looking back on our past life, and reviewing all the way by which thou hast led us, we can set up our stones of remembrance, and say, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us, bless and magnify his holy name.

But alas! O Lord, we must confess, we have not requited thee as we ought; we have proved ungrateful and disobedient children; we have frequently transgressed thy laws, and violated thy holy precepts; and wert thou strict to mark our iniquities, we could not stand before thee. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; and for the sake of thy Son, and our Saviour, be pleased, we humbly beseech thee, to blot out all our sins, to love us freely, and receive us graciously. Create in each of us a clean heart, and renew in us a right spirit, that we may henceforth live devoted to thy praise and glory. Justify us freely by thy grace, and sanctify us wholly by thy Spirit. Thou hast raised us up to see the light and enjoy the comforts of a new day; enable us to spend it in thy fear. Fit us for every duty; prepare us for every trial. May we deny ourselves to all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly. Be the God of this family, and of all our dear friends and relations; reward our benefactors and forgive our enemies. We ask all in the name of him who has taught us thus to pray, 'Our Father,' &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XIX.

O LORD our God, how excellent is thy name in all the earth; thou art God thyself alone, and besides thee there is none else. We adore thee as the King eternal, immortal, and invisible; the only

wise, living, and true God Thou art from everlasting to everlasting, the same yesterday, to day, and forever. Thou didst create all things, and thou dost continually uphold them in being. To thee we are indebted for our existence, and for the exalted rank we occupy in the scale of creation. We thank thee for having conferred upon us more wisdom than the fowls of heaven, and more understanding than the beasts of the field—for having made us intelligent beings; and rendered us capable of knowing, loving, and serving thee: and deriving pleasure from the contemplation of thy works, with which we are surrounded. We thank thee for the comforts which, as a family, we enjoy, and for all the blessings of civilized and social life. In an especial manner, we thank thee for having cast our lot in a land of gospel light and liberty; where we have been made acquainted with thy character, not only as the God of providence, but of grace: as in Jesus Christ reconciling a guilty world unto thyself, not imputing to men their trespasses. We rejoice to read in thy most blessed word, that thou hast no pleasure in the death of sinners; that with thee there is forgiveness, that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption, that thou mayest be sought after. We desire, O God, to receive Jesus Christ in all his offices, as our Prophet, our Priest, and our King; and to trust in him alone for salvation. While we look to his atoning sacrifice as the ground of a sinner's justification, we desire to look to his holy life as the bright pattern for our obedience. O grant us the gift of the Holy Ghost, to enable us to imitate his pure and spotless example. May the same mind be in us which was in him. May we ever strive to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thee our God. Enable us to discharge aright all the relative duties of life; and thus manifest that we are indeed the disciples of Jesus. May we set our affections on things above, and not on things on the earth; using this world as not abusing it.

O God, we thank thee for the mercies of the past day: for preserving us in our outgoings and incomings; and supplying all our returning wants. Watch over us during the night, and defend us from all ill; pardon our sins, and accept of us in Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—GENESIS xxxv.

O LORD our God, thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations. Thou art the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Thou didst reveal thyself unto them, as full of mercy and compassion; thou didst protect them in the season of danger, and support them in the hour of sore temptation. Thou hast never, at any period of the world, left thyself without a witness. Our fathers trusted in thee, and were not put to shame; they found thee a present help in the time of need, and that all thy gracious promises were fulfilled in their behalf. We rejoice to believe that thou art an unchange-

able God, and that thine arm is not shortened that it cannot save; neither thine ear heavy that it cannot hear. We draw near unto thee this morning, believing that thou art everywhere present, and the bountiful rewarder of all those who diligently seek thee. We desire to seek thee, O God, with our whole hearts; and to place ourselves under thy special guidance and protection. Whom have we in heaven, O Lord, but thee? and there is none on all the earth our souls desire besides thee. Thou alone canst impart to us those blessings of mercy and grace, which we need; thou alone canst pardon our multiplied transgressions, and blot out our sins; thou alone canst sanctify our corrupted natures, and make us holy. Have mercy upon us miserable sinners, and for the sake of him who died for guilty men, extend unto us thy pardoning mercy, and thy sanctifying grace. Adopt us into the number of thy spiritual family, and make us partakers of the blessed privileges of thy children. Create in each of us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us; lift upon us the light of thy reconciled countenance, and uphold us by the right hand of thy righteousness.

O God, thou knowest our frame, thou rememberest that we are dust; teach us so to number our days, as to apply our hearts to heavenly wisdom. Help us daily to bear in mind that this is not our resting-place; that our breath is in our nostrils, and that soon the place which now knows us, shall know us no more forever. May we spend every day as if it were to be our last, in making preparation for our latter end; so that when we come to die, death may to us be great gain. We bless thee, O Lord, for the mercies of the past night. We lay down on our beds, we slept in safety, and awoke in peace, and refreshed, because thou hast sustained us. Keep us in thy fear all the day long. Bless all the members of this family, as we respectively stand in need. Bless our native land. Prosper the interests of pure and undefiled religion in the midst of us. O have pity upon the sick and afflicted, and prepare the dying for their great change. All we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XX.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the sovereign ruler of the universe. Thou didst create all things by the word of thy power, and thou dost continually uphold them in being. Thou rulest in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of this lower world, and none can stay thy hand from working, nor say unto thee, What doest thou? We bless thy name for the assurance thou hast given us in thy most holy word, that, though thou inhabitest eternity, and receivest the homage and worship of angels and archangels, thou condescendest to dwell with men on the earth, and thou lendest a kind and compassionate ear to the supplications of thy human family. We rejoice to contemplate thee, O God, as seated on a throne of

mercy, and holding out the sceptre of peace to the returning sinner, saying, As I live I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they should return unto me and live. Thy name and memorial to all generations is the Lord, the Lord God merciful and gracious, long-suffering and slow to anger, and plenteous in redemption, and therefore we have boldness and confidence to come into thy presence, and take thy holy name into our polluted lips. We have sinned against thee, O God, and have done very wickedly. Our own hearts condemn us for many violations of thy law, but we rejoice to think that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin, and that its cleansing efficacy is freely offered to the very chief of sinners. O grant that we may have redemption through his blood, and the forgiveness of all our sins. We thank thee, O Lord, for our distinguished religious privileges. Thou hast made known to us the unsearchable riches of thy grace, and called us out of darkness into the marvellous light of the gospel. O give us grace to walk worthy of our high and holy calling; that it may never be to our condemnation that we are so highly favored. Enable us to bear in mind that to whom much is given, of them much shall be required; and that it shall be more tolerable for those in the day of judgment who have never heard of the name of Christ, than it shall be for us, if we neglect this great salvation. May we be active in doing our Master's work; diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; laying up a good foundation against the time to come. We thank thee, O Lord, for the many tokens of thy favor and friendship, vouchsafed to us during the week that is just about to close. During its progress many equally deserving have been cut down as cumberers of the ground. We are still spared, the living monuments of thy mercy. May we live devoted to thy praise and glory. O prepare us for the solemn services of an approaching sabbath. May our minds be freed from all distracting cares, and be ready to receive the engrafted seed of the word, that we may grow thereby. O thou, who never slumberest nor sleepest, watch over us during the unconscious hours of rest. Let no evil befall us, let no plague come nigh our dwelling. Sleeping or waking, living or dying, may we be thine. And to thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God, be ascribed all glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

Fifth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM XVIII.

O LORD, thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations; a very present help in every time of trouble. We adore and bless thee as our rock and our fortress, and our deliv-

erer; our God, and our strength, in whom we will trust. We thank thee for all thy past goodness, and for the abundant encouragement which thy frequent interpositions in our behalf afford us to confide in thy future care and mercy. Thou hast been our stay in the day of our calamity. How often hast thou enlightened our darkness; shielded us from danger; girded us with strength to combat with temptation; and made the way of safety and of duty plain before us? O Lord, thy way is perfect: thy word is tried: thou art a buckler to all them that trust in thee. Impressed with a sense of thy goodness, we would now humbly and gratefully devote our lives to thy service. Who is God, save the Lord? or a rock, save our God? Other lords, in time past, may have claimed and received the homage of our hearts; but henceforward we will love thee, O Lord, our strength: we will be called by thy name, O our God, who alone art worthy to be praised. Not only art thou entitled to our affection and obedience, as our Creator and benefactor, thou hast redeemed us from the snares of death and the sorrows of hell, and not spared thine own Son, but delivered him up that he might save us from our enemies and from the hand of them that hate us. Therefore will we give thanks unto thee, O Lord, continually, and sing praises unto thy name. Strengthen our feeble resolutions, we beseech thee. Confirm our imperfect and wavering fidelity. Teach our hands to war and our fingers to fight; and let not our goodness be as the morning cloud, or as the early dew, which passeth away. May this sacred day, and the services in which we are to engage, be sanctified for this end to our souls. May the day recall to our thoughts the dying love, the endless life, and the universal dominion of Him who is the Lord of the sabbath; who liveth and was dead, and is alive for evermore, and who hath promised to be with his people always in their worshipping assemblies, even unto the end of the world. May thy house and service be a foretaste of heaven; of that temple which the Lord God doth lighten, and of which the Lamb is the perpetual light; and of that pure and blissful service which unites the hearts and the harps of saints and angels in harmonious thanksgivings before the throne of God and of the Lamb, forever and ever. Be with all thy worshipping people. Especially bless, and strengthen, and encourage thy ministering servants. Deal bountifully with the afflicted who are detained from thine ordinances. And enlarge, this day, we farther beseech thee, the empire of thy Son, by giving him everywhere the hearts of his enemies, and by making him, as thou hast promised, the head of the heathen. Hear us, O Lord, we entreat thee, and let the grace of thy Holy Spirit sanctify, and the abundance of thy mercy pardon us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be glory everlasting. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM XIX.

O LORD, we come before thee this evening, deeply impressed with a sense of thy presence, and with the proofs which everywhere surround us of thy being and perfections. Thou hast never left thyself without a witness. In our own circumstances, in our daily experience, in the events of providence, in the blessings of our lot, and in the afflictions and sorrows that try our patience and our faith, we behold the working of thy hand, and adore the indications of thy sovereign will and paternal care. Thou art never far from any of us. Thou art present not only in the world without and around us, but in our hearts and consciences. In a still small voice thou proclaimest to every one of us, that verily there is a God that judgeth; that we are the clay and thou the potter; and that we are all the work of thy hands, and the subjects of thy government. But blessed be God, we are not left to find our way to the knowledge of thy character, through the dark intimations which thy works and ways afford. Thou hast addressed us in thy word; thou hast spoken to us by thy Son. Blessed be God for the glorious light of the gospel of Jesus Christ, by whom thy character and purposes have been clearly revealed, and in whom thou art beheld, reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. This thy law, O Lord, is perfect, converting the soul: this thy testimony is sure, making wise the simple. Enable us, we entreat thee, to set our seal to every truth which thou hast been thus graciously pleased to make known to us; acknowledging it to be very right; loving it because it is pure; delighting in it because it is clean; and resting in it with confidence, because it is true and righteous altogether. May its effects correspond with its regenerating and sanctifying design. May it enlighten our darkness, cure our folly, correct our prejudices, and supply an antidote to all our errors. May it prove a source of purity to our affections, and of peace and healing to our consciences and hearts. May it furnish us with comfort when we are in trouble, direction when we are perplexed, support when we are ready to stumble; and, when we are called to die, may it sustain us with a calm and tranquil hope. O may we prize it more than gold, yea, than much fine gold, and experience its consolations to be sweeter than honey, and the honey-comb. And for the attainment of these ends, be pleased to accompany the reading and hearing of thy word with the effectual teaching of thy holy Spirit. May its sacred lessons, to which we have this day listened, be imprinted upon our memories, and written by the finger of God upon the fleshly tables of our hearts. May it be in us as a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life; supplying us with principles and motives, rules and admonitions, consolations and encouragements, suited to our respective characters and dispositions, and to the various temptations, relations, and circumstances in which any of us may be placed. May it teach us the knowledge of ourselves and of

OUR ERRORS; be sanctified as the instrument of cleansing us from secret faults, and of restraining us from presumptuous sins: may we be delivered by it from every evil thought and work, and be preserved unto thy heavenly kingdom, upright and innocent from the great transgression. These, our prayers, are now before thee. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts,—let our supplications for ourselves, for our friends, for the church of Christ, and for our brethren of mankind, which we now present to thee through Jesus Christ, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXXVII.

O LORD, thou hast led us and fed us all our life hitherto. Thou hast been with us in our going out and in our coming in, and all thy ways towards us have been mercy and truth. Thou art our God, and we will praise thee: thou hast been our fathers' God, and we will exalt thee. In the midst of thy benefits we would not be unmindful of the hand that bestows them; nor forget, in the abundance of temporal blessings, that we are but pilgrims and strangers on the earth. By faith we would realize better enjoyments than any which flow in the channels of this world; and raising our hearts to thyself as our portion, and to heaven as our rest and our home, we would sojourn here as in a strange country, looking for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. In every relation of life, enable us to bear upon our minds the duty which we owe to thee and to one another. May we be concerned to promote thy glory, and to advance the eternal interests of our fellow-men, by our endeavors and example. May we be preserved from the weaknesses, as well as from the corruptions into which good men have at any time been betrayed. May our whole intercourse with society be conducted on the principles of the Gospel of Christ, and be a copy of the meekness and wisdom, the purity and love, the firmness and the gentleness, of Him who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who was in the world, but not of it; who was alive to all our affections, but divinely superior to all their infirmities and imperfections. May all in whom we are interested, share with us in the bounty of thy providence, and in the grace of thy Spirit. Preserve them from the evil that is in their own hearts and in the world. Let not the young be led astray by the error of the wicked. Let them not promise themselves impunity in the ways of sin. Let them not yield to the first motions of corruption, or look with indulgence on the early risings of passion. O let them bear in mind the precipice over which so many have been dragged, who have given way to the devices and desires of their own evil hearts; and let them tremble, lest, surrendering themselves to the indulgence of an ungoverned will, they should share the misery of those who can-

not cease from sin, and who shall utterly perish in their own corruption. Sanctify the heart of man, O Lord, as well as restrain and overrule the evil that is in it. Diffuse through society the Spirit of thy Son. May love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, and all the fruits of the Spirit spring up in the intercourse of man with man, instead of those works of the flesh, which prey upon the heart of individuals, waste the peace of families, and convert the world into a scene of distrust and discord, violence and division. May all events be directed and overruled with a view to the universal extension of the Redeemer's reign of righteousness and peace. And may the hearts of thy people, firmly settled in the belief of thy word, wait patiently, while they strive earnestly, for the accomplishment of thy promise, that the wilderness and the solitary place shall yet be glad, and that the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. All that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, both now and forever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXI. 1-22.

O LORD, who hast so loved the world as to send thine only-begotten Son, not to condemn, but to save it, be pleased to open our ears to the joyful sound which proclaims his mission, and to open our hearts, that we may admit him to that place in our affections, which is due to him that cometh in the name of the Lord to save us. May we be profoundly affected with the great love wherewith he hath loved us; and while he stands at the door and knocks, may our hearts answer to his call, and may we hasten to lift up the gates and to open the doors, that the king of glory may come in. Blessed God, who hast not been repelled by our guilt and the manifold disorders which prevail in our souls—the sanctuary on which thou didst impress the image of thy glory—show thyself strong, we beseech thee, for our deliverance from the corruptions which have established themselves in our hearts, and set up the throne of thy Son in the living temple which he claims as his own. Sprinkle our consciences with his most precious blood, that the deep stains of our transgressions, against thy will and commandment, may be blotted out. Purify our affections by the sanctifying influences of thy Holy Spirit, that the will to transgress, the desire to sin, may no longer prevail over us. Touch the springs of godly sorrow, of grateful recollection, of willing, cheerful, cordial obedience, that our soul, body, and spirit, may be holiness unto the Lord, an habitation of God by the Spirit. As lively stones may we be built upon the foundation, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious; and, being built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, may we offer up continually spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. And as thou hast permitted us to pray, not only for ourselves, but also for others, be pleased, we beseech thee, to open the hearts of our

brethren of mankind to the love, and faith, and obedience of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Thy Son hath come into the world; let it not always be true that the world knoweth him not: he hath come unto his own; let not his own forever persist in receiving him not. Multiply the number of those who, in meekness, humility, and love, receive him, and to whom he gives power to become the sons of God. May our friends and kindred, our acquaintance and neighbors, joyfully hearken to his voice. May thine ancient people behold in him the promised representative of their father David. And may the time be hastened, when men everywhere shall be blessed in him, and all nations shall call him blessed. Now, blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things: and blessed be his glorious name forever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XXXIX.

O GOD, who reignest over all, and whose eyes are over the righteous, and his ears open unto their cry, we now draw near unto thee, as the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations, their refuge and their rock, whose name is a high tower, into which the righteous runneth and is safe. We delight to contemplate thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; as his God and our God, his Father and our Father. What are we or our Father's house, that it should be so with us? Behold, O God, we are vile: what shall we answer thee, O thou preserver of men? We are utterly unworthy of all the truth and all the mercy thou hast shown unto thy servants. But, Lord, it is not our worth that is the measure of thy grace, and therefore, O God, our hearts are glad. Glory be to God in the highest that thy love is everlasting; that we have been found of thee when we sought thee not. Do thou, who didst promise to be with Jacob in all places whither he went, and to keep him and bring him again in peace, who leddest Joseph like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron, be our God and our guide even unto death. Grant unto us, we beseech thee, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, an interest in all the blessings of the everlasting covenant, which is well ordered in all things and sure. Let thine Almighty Spirit dwell in us, and lead us in the way of truth and holiness, even in the way everlasting, and bring us at last to thy tabernacles. O our heavenly Father, do thou, who didst preserve thy young servant from violent death and the snare of the wicked one, who didst deliver him from anguish and oppression, when his feet were hurt with fetters, and he was bound in affliction and iron, keep our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Keep us by thy mighty power, through faith, unto salvation. Let thy presence ever go with us. Help us to be ever with thee, to act and to endure as seeing thee who art invisible, that in the wiles and temptations of the

devil, the world, and the flesh, we may say, Shall we do this great thing and sin against God? Do thou, who art able to keep us from falling, preserve us without spot and blameless to the coming of the Lord Jesus. Help us to fear God, and to have no other fear; to be faithful in all our relations, that others, seeing our good works, may glorify thee, our Father in heaven. We thank thee for the rest of the past night. Guide us this day in the way that leadeth to the rest that remaineth for the people of God. Guard us from all evil. Let integrity and truth preserve us. Make thy word a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We commend us and ours to thy mercy and care; our friends to thy favor, our enemies to thy forgiveness and blessing; and all men to thy gracious compassions. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXI. 23-46.

ALMIGHTY God, we now would bow down before thee, in the name of Christ, and humble ourselves in the dust at the thought of the impiety and rebellion of our hearts, our too frequent contempt of thy word and commandment, our self-righteousness, formality, and pride, in refusing to own the authority of him who made, preserves, and redeems us, and rejecting even the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us. O most merciful God, teach us, from the lessons and examples set forth in thy blessed word, to learn there our own character and conduct, our waywardness and guilt; and while our hearts accord in condemning the perverse obstinacy and cruel enmity of thine ancient people to thy truth and to thy servants, and their awful guilt in crucifying the Son of God, O let us not forget that by nature we are no better than they, and that wherein we have been made to differ, we have been entirely the debtors to thy grace. Let us not be high-minded, but fear. Help us, O God, to shun their guilt, that we may not experience their fate; lest, if we reject Christ, he may reject us, and our candlestick be removed out of its place. For if God spared not the natural branches, let us take heed that he visit not us with greater condemnation. For we sin against even higher privileges and greater light. We pray, heavenly Father, that we may be led to behold, with supreme reverence and affection, 'the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world,' and to whom all the prophets gave witness. O may we come to his rising, and rejoice in his light. May we behold him as the Sun of righteousness, and receive and rest upon him as 'Jehovah our righteousness.' Let his blood, shed by men who knew not what they did, be applied by the Holy Spirit to our souls, to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, lest, if we receive it not for pardon and sanctification, it should rest upon us to our eternal condemnation. May it purge our consciences from dead works to serve the living God. Let the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus,

who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness. We thank thee, O God, for all the encouragements vouchsafed in thy word even to the chief of sinners, and the abundant provision made in the person, character, and work of our blessed Redeemer, for their comfort and salvation. Let us not proudly despise any, but seek their peace and salvation. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Let them prosper who love her. O God, have mercy upon Zion. Heal her breaches. Return, O God, and visit this vine which thine own right hand hath planted. Gather in the lost sheep of the house of Israel, with the fulness of the Gentiles, that the wilderness and the solitary place may be glad for them, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose; till the thirsty land become a pool, and the dry land springs of water; and all the ends of the earth may draw water out of the wells of salvation, and sit under the shadow of him whose name is the Branch, with great delight. We unite in thanking thee for our great and numerous privileges. Help us to improve them, remembering that to whom much is given, of them also much shall be required. We thank thee for the common bounties of thy providence. Thou hast made our cup run over, and goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. Accept, in the name of Christ, our thanksgivings for the mercies of the past day. Forgive, for his sake, the sins that have marked its course; purge our hearts and consciences in that blood which cleanseth from all sin. Watch over us during the night. Let thy banner over us be love. Refresh us with needful rest. Restore us to thy service if spared to see a new day. If called hence, as we may be before its dawn, receive us, O God, to thyself. We commend ourselves, our friends, and relatives, into thy hands. Bless and forgive those who may have injured us. Be gracious to the sick and distressed. Bless all in authority. May they be ministers of God for good. Prosper Zion, and build up the walls of Jerusalem, and let the glory of the Lord speedily cover the earth. Hear, and accept, and answer us, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XL.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we, thy sinful and dependent children, would now come into thy presence, to offer thee the homage of our hearts, and the obedience of our lives, beseeching thine acceptance in the name of him whom thou hearest always, and in whom thou art always pleased. Thou art God alone, and besides thee there is none else. Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created at the first. Thou art the sovereign ruler and supreme disposer of all beings and of all events, and none may say unto thee, What doest thou? Of thee, and through thee, and to thee are all things, to whom be glory forever and ever. How de-

lightful to thy children the thought that thine eyes are in every place, and thy kingdom ruleth over all; that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground, nor a hair from our heads, without our Father. We therefore, O God, with humble confidence and love, would cast ourselves anew upon thy care, putting our trust under the shadow of thy wings. We pray that thou, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who didst so tenderly and wonderfully preserve and conduct Joseph, thy young servant, in his trials and sufferings, who didst comfort and sustain him in the anguish of his soul, and in the house of bondage, mayest sustain and guide us in this the place of our pilgrimage. Help us, O God, to be faithful in the duties to which we are called, and the trials we have to meet; to recognize thy wise and gracious hand in all that befalls us, and to be followers of them who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises. May we profit by the examples of thy holy word, seeing that whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of the scriptures, might have hope. Help us to draw water, for our comfort and refreshment in this wilderness, out of these wells of salvation. We especially pray that the Spirit of all grace may enable us to set the Lord Jesus Christ always before us, as the great object of our faith, revealed in the scriptures, for they are they which testify of him, as the author and finisher of it, and as our great example; the 'leader and commander of his people;' the light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of his people Israel. Pardon and purify us by thy Spirit, in the blood of Christ. Create in us, O God, clean hearts; renew right spirits within us. While serving thee, our God, in faithfulness and truth, teach us to maintain in our spirits compassion for the sufferings of our fellow-men, remembering that we ourselves are in the body, and liable always to be 'bound with them.' We this day renew our expressions of thanksgiving for all our personal and social mercies, privileges, and blessings. Let thy goodness lead us to repentance. While thou hast restored us to the enjoyments and the duties of a new day, and art causing the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over us, let thy presence this day go with us, and compass us with thy favor as with a shield. We commend to thy compassionate regards, all the families of the earth; our friends; all whom we love, and in whom we are interested; bless them in time and for eternity. We pray for our enemies. Bless thy church. Extend the borders of Zion. Build up the waste places, the desolations of many generations. Pity the distressed. Comfort all mourners; and do for us exceeding abundantly, above all we can ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXII. 1-22.

O GOD, the Ruler of heaven and earth, the King of kings and Lord of lords, God over all, blessed forever, we would, this evening,

with hearts filled with gratitude for thine infinite grace and condescension, and awed by thy glorious majesty, render thee our unfeigned, hearty, and united thanks for thine abundant grace, the free and rich provision made for the salvation of the chief of sinners—that every one that thirsteth, and he that hath no money—that the wretched and miserable, the poor, the blind, and the naked are encouraged and invited to come to the marriage supper of the Lamb, to eat and drink the bread and the water of life, to sup with him and he with us. Lord, we are utterly unworthy of this glorious grace. Not unto us, not unto us, but to him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, even his Father, to him be the glory and dominion forever and ever. O Lord, preserve us from the guilt of rejecting the invitations of mercy. Deliver us from all hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandments, from all worldliness and indifference of spirit; and keep us back from all presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over us. O clothe us with the Redeemer's righteousness. Renew us in the spirit of our minds. Grant unto us humble and sincere hearts; and preserve us from all formality and hypocrisy, from daring to mock our Saviour, by professing to be his, and coming before him as his people come, when in truth we are deceivers and enemies. Let us be stirred up to search and try our ways; and do thou, O God, search and try us, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Correct us, O Lord, but with judgment, lest thou bring us to nothing. Grant, O God, we beseech thee, that at last we may be approved of our Lord, and made joyful forever in his presence, with exceeding great joy. We thank thee for all the mercies of the past day. Lay not our sins to our charge. Come over the mountains of our provocations this day. Rectify our improper tempers, dispositions, and affections. Give us the rest and sleep of thy beloved. Should another day dawn upon us in life, let it be in the light of thy countenance; and do thou give us peace. We renew our prayers for all for whom we ought to pray, in all our relations, and in the merciful and benevolent spirit of our holy faith, and after the example of our blessed Lord; and all that we ask is for his sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XLI.

O THOU, who art the hearer of prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Enable us to approach thee by that new and living way which thou hast opened and consecrated by the blood of Christ. May we know, from our happy experience, that it is a good thing to draw near to God. We adore thee as the infinite and self-existent Jehovah; the omnipotent and glorious Creator; the universal and eternal Lord. Thy character is adorned with every amiable

attribute; with all moral excellence. Thou art good unto all; and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Teach us to venerate thy glorious majesty; to love and delight in thy holy and excellent perfections; and to place our confidence under the shadow of thy wings. We confess and lament our great unworthiness. We have sinned against heaven and in thy sight. We have forfeited thy favor and lost thine image; and we deserve nothing at thy hands but indignation and wrath forever. We would take refuge in Christ, in whom thou art reconciling sinners unto thyself. Behold us in him; let thine anger be turned away from us for his sake; give us acceptance in the Beloved. Cause us to experience the sanctifying power of the truth, as it is in Jesus; and make us altogether such as thou wouldst have us to be. May thy good and holy Spirit quicken to us the means of instruction and edification with which thou hast favored us; and sanctify us in spirit, in soul, and in body; and make us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Teach us to feel our dependence on thy bounty, and to glorify thee in receiving and in using the gifts of thy providence. We rejoice that our great High Priest has the administration of the affairs of the world; and that he who died for us orders all things according to the counsel of his will, for our education and training for heaven. Make us contented and thankful, and to set our affections on things above. We thank thee for rest and preservation during the night. Keep thy good hand around us during the day on which we have now entered. Set a guard upon our thoughts. May our meditations of thee be sweet and profitable. Preserve us from all evil, especially from sin. Supply all our need. Direct our way. Quicken and strengthen us in duty and in trial, and preserve us into thy heavenly kingdom. Let our prayer come before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the morning sacrifice, for the sake of our great Mediator and Advocate. And to thee, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be everlasting praise. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXII. 23-46.

O THOU great and glorious Jehovah, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and forever, the infinite, self-existent, and eternal God, we would come unto thee through the mediation of him in whom thou hast revealed to us thyself, thy character, and thy dispensations, and by whom alone we are permitted to approach thee. Give us the spirit of grace and supplication, and manifest thyself to us as thou dost not unto the world. We adore and thank thee that, having spoken in former times to thine ancient people by the prophets, thou hast, in these latter days, spoken to us by thy Son; that, having revealed thyself to them as the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, thou hast made thyself known to us as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enable us to regard thee, in the exer-

cise of faith, as our covenant God, as our reconciled Father in Christ. For his sake blot out all our trespasses; speak comfortably unto us; and bless us with the hope of inheriting a glorious portion as the children of thy family. We would be joyful in the assurance thou hast given us of a never ending and inconceivably blessed life in thy presence, purchased for us by the blood of the eternal covenant. May the prospect of it sweeten our present existence, and soothe our present sorrows. May this hope, which we have in Christ, prove a powerful instrument in the hand of the Spirit of grace and holiness, to purify our souls, even as he who is the object of our faith is pure. May we learn to love thee with our whole heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors with a sincere, and cordial, and ardent affection. May we delight in thy word, and esteem all thy precepts, concerning all things to be right. May we grow in a holy and affectionate obedience to thy will, and in conformity to thy character; and be at length prepared for beholding thy face in righteousness, for walking with Jesus, for associating with angels, and for the services and enjoyments of a holy heaven. We thank thee for the privilege of hearing the voice of Jesus speaking to us in the scriptures. May what we have read of his word this evening, furnish sweet and profitable meditation to us, while we retire to rest upon our beds. May thy presence be about us during the silent watches of the night. May we, as the objects of thy love, enjoy refreshing sleep, and be kept safe under the shadow of thy wings; and, if it be thy good pleasure, may we awake in the morning and find ourselves still with thee: or, if this night should conclude our pilgrimage on earth, may we awake to find ourselves with Christ in paradise. We ask all in his name; and to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we would ascribe the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XLII.

ALMIGHTY and most glorious God, thou art the Author and Sovereign of universal nature. Of old didst thou lay the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. The sea is thine, for thou madest it; and thy hand formed the dry land. Thou makest grass to grow for cattle, and herbs for the use of man. The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their food in due season. We are entirely dependent upon thy bounty, for our being, and for our well-being. Teach us to acknowledge thee in all our ways, and thy hand in all our comforts and enjoyments. When thou withholdest from us that which is good, or inflictest upon us any suffering, may we devoutly acknowledge thy sovereignty and justice, and say from the heart, it is the Lord! let him do what seemeth him good! We confess, O Lord, our manifold and highly aggravated sins; that we are unworthy of the least of thy mercies;

and deserve nothing at thy hand but indignation and wrath forever. We praise and adore the unspeakable mercy which thou hast manifested in the humiliation, obedience, and sacrifice of the Lord our righteousness. We rejoice that it hath pleased thee, that all fulness of spiritual and heavenly blessings should dwell in him for the benefit, and comfort, and salvation of our poor, destitute and perishing souls. May the Holy Ghost draw us to that store-house of good things which is laid up in Christ, and enable us to put forth the hand of faith to take of the things that belong to him, so that out of his fulness we may receive even grace for grace. May we know our spiritual need. May we hunger and thirst after righteousness. May we open our mouths wide, and be satisfied with good. Lord, increase our faith. In the season of trial may we look to that Rock which is higher than we. May thy strength be made perfect in our weakness. May we not faint in the day of adversity. May we look out of ourselves, and find to our own sweet experience, that through Christ strengthening us, we can do all things. May we rest in the Lord. May we in patience possess our souls, and find that, in the end, those things which appeared to be most against us, were working together for good to us; for our joy and comfort here, and our perfection and glory hereafter.

We acknowledge the gracious providence which has sustained us during the night, and brought us to the beginning of a new day. We commit ourselves to thy protection, and guidance, and favor, throughout the course of it. May all our need, temporal and spiritual, be graciously supplied according to thy glorious riches by Christ Jesus. May thy glory be this day and every day the aim, and thy holy will the rule, of our lives. And when we have finished our pilgrimage on earth, may we be received into the Canaan that is above. May our prayer come up before thee with acceptance, and may we receive an answer in grace and mercy, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXIII.

O LORD, holy and omniscient, who beholdest the inmost recesses of the soul, who triest the reins and heart, and who art of purer eyes than to look upon sin without infinite abhorrence, we beseech thee to cause the portion of thy most blessed word, which thou hast now permitted us to read and meditate on, to make a deep, and salutary, and lasting impression upon our minds. May the solemn and alarming rebukes which proceeded from the lips of the holy Redeemer, in the days of his flesh, and which have been recorded for our warning and instruction, suitably affect our consciences. Thou knowest, and we would consider for our self-humiliation, that we are by nature no better than those whose pride and selfishness, iniquity, cruelty, and unbelief called forth the holy indignation of thy gracious and con-

descending Son. May thy holy Spirit savingly impress this conviction upon our hearts. May we perceive more clearly our need of thy pardoning mercy, and of the precious benefit of the prevailing mediation, and atoning death, and perfect righteousness of Christ. Forgive, in thy great compassion and kindness of thy love in him, all that thou seest in us inconsistent with thy purity, and opposed to thy will. And give us grace to understand our errors and unworthiness, and to detect and put away from us the plague of our hearts. Do thou, the God of peace, sanctify us wholly, bringing down every imagination, and every high thing which would exalt itself against the knowledge and authority of thy law, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. May our affections be spiritualized, our hearts purified, our desires elevated. May our wills be renewed more and more, until they become entirely conformed to thy will. May we yield our members instruments of righteousness unto godliness. And may our whole spirits, and souls, and bodies, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We adore and bless thee for the continued protection and bounty of thy providence; for all our personal and domestic comforts; for all our temporal blessings; for all our religious privileges; for the unspeakable gift of thy Son, who hath purchased for us all our enjoyments and all our hopes. May we have a covenant interest in the gifts of thy providence. May all things be ours, sanctified to us by the grace and Spirit of Jesus. And may we have a growing experience of those spiritual blessings which are the special provision made in the covenant for the good of thy children. We commend ourselves this night to thy care and love. O thou who keepest Israel, watch over us, and preserve us in safety, and, if it be thy holy and blessed will, bring us to see the light of a new morning. Let the light of thy countenance shine upon us; and whether we wake or sleep, may we be with thee. Graciously accept of our worship, and hear our prayers, for the sake of him whom thou hearest always. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XLIII.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, thou art the Ruler as well as the Creator of all things. All things are in thy hand, from the greatest to the smallest. Not a sparrow can fall to the ground without thine appointment. Thy footsteps are often in dark and stormy waters, but justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. Though at times thou humblest thy creatures in the very dust, and barest thine arm in the infliction of overwhelming calamity, yet mercy is mingled with thy darkest judgments, and thy purposes are as kind as they are wise. Particularly towards thine own people, thy dealings are dealings of mercy and love. Thou rejoicest over them to do them good. Thou leadest them by ways

which they know not, and thus vindicatest thy claims as a sovereign. But thou art ever promoting their welfare, helping on the work of their sanctification, increasing their joy, confirming their faith, and reviving their hopes. We desire to cast in our lot with them, and to rest in safety under the shadow of thy wings. Teach us to acknowledge thy hand, from day to day, in ordinary as well as extraordinary events. Let us be concerned to be the objects of thy care and love, as our God in covenant; and from the singular array of thy providential dispensations in promoting our spiritual improvement, let us be able to derive some measure of assurance, that we are indeed of the number of thy chosen. Help us to bear in mind that growth in grace and in the knowledge of Christ should be our grand and daily concern; and let us feel, that whatever furthers this should be acknowledged as good, however, for a time, painful to the body, or distressing to the mind. Weaken the ties which bind us to the things that are seen and temporal; and, depending on thy Spirit, help us to travel on through the wilderness, earnestly seeking a better country, and striving to attain a meetness for it. Especially, O God, when we are visited by affliction, may we not only regard its season as one of very solemn duty, but be concerned to improve it as one of endearing privilege. May our afflictions impress us more deeply with our own sinfulness, lead us to form an higher estimate of the value of thy favor, and teach us to consider habitually the shortness and uncertainty of life, as well as the vanity and insignificance of the world. We thank thee for the mercies of the past night and this morning. As we have entered on a new day, we most humbly entreat thy guidance and blessing amidst its duties and cares. Remember the human race in thy great mercy. Send the truth of salvation abroad into all lands. Visit the afflicted; comfort and support under the pressure of trouble; awaken and sanctify largely by means of it. Bestow upon our kindred and friends the joy of thy salvation. Prepare us for all the events which are before us. Forgive our manifold and aggravated transgressions; and graciously hear our prayers, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXIV. 1-28.

ALMIGHTY God, thou art just and righteous, and all thy words are faithful and true. Though thy name and thy memorial, in all generations, have been the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet thou wilt by no means clear the guilty. Thou hatest sin and lovest righteousness; and thou art angry with sinners every day. It is matter of thankfulness to us, that while this is thy character, it has pleased thee to reveal thyself as the God of patience, and to declare that judgment is thy strange work. May we not be of the number of those 'whose heart

is set in them to do evil, because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily.' May the consideration of thy 'goodness lead us to repentance.' May we remember the tokens of thy displeasure against sin, exhibited for warning in ancient times. Thou didst sweep away the world of the ungodly by the great flood. Thou didst destroy with fire the cities of the plain. Thou didst send twice into captivity thy chosen but disobedient people. And at a later period, when the blood of the Lord of glory rested on them and their children, thou didst bring the destroying armies of the heathen into their land, and utterly destroy their temple and city. O teach us to learn from these events the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the importance of deliverance from its condemnation and power, and the indispensable necessity of an interest in the death of thy Son. We thank thee that salvation has been placed within our reach, and that we have been called to look unto Jesus as the 'Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.' May we cleave to him with a lively faith, and in a state of intimate and endearing union with him; may we be enabled, by thy Spirit dwelling in us, to purify ourselves, even as thou art pure. Forbid that our privileges should lull us into security, or lead us into presumption. Let them rather quicken us to serve thee. We would remember thine ancient people the Jews, whom thou hast made a by-word among all the nations of the earth. We thank thee that there is a time foretold in thy word when thou wilt gather them into one, and when thy kindness and mercy towards them will return. Hasten that happy time. Have respect unto thine ancient covenant. Let not the thick veil of unbelief continue to blind the descendants of thy friend and servant Abraham, but let the light of the glorious gospel shine into their minds. Let 'all Israel be saved, and their sins and iniquities remembered no more.' We acknowledge thy kindness during the past day, and rejoice in the near prospect of the sabbath. Remember the heathen, and cause thy saving health to be known among them. Prosper thy cause wherever it is known, and crown it with glory. Sanctify affliction. Let it be the means of rendering savingly impressive the precious truths of thy word. Show mercy to our kindred and friends, and embrace them within the bounds of thy new and better covenant. Dwell in the midst of us. Bless all the members of this household. May those who are more advanced be strong in faith, and may the young be fervent in piety. Prepare us for the solemn duties of the sabbath. May it be a day of triumphant power in all the congregations of thy saints. Forgive our sins, and answer our prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Sixth Week.

SABBATH MORNING —PSALMS XX. XXI.

ALMIGHTY God, we ascribe all praise unto thee, by whom alone kings reign, and princes decree justice. Thou art the fountain of power, and of all blessedness and honor. Thy throne is above the heavens, and angels and men, through all their ranks and degrees, are subject unto thee. Thou only givest strength and victory. Without thy blessing the mightiest are weak, and the wisest are foolish. We thank thee for the protection thou hast extended towards thy church in all past times. Thou hast raised up kings and rulers to be the instruments of thy providence in protecting and delivering thy chosen. Thou hast most graciously heard the prayers of thy people, when, with united energy, they have come up before thee in behalf of thy servants. We gratefully acknowledge these things to be proofs of thy love for the souls of men, for salvation is thy great work, to the accomplishment of which, all events and dispensations are made subservient. May we bear in mind that salvation is a personal concern, and that our true wisdom is to secure an interest in it, in the way and by the means which thou hast been pleased to appoint. When we consider what thou hast done for thy church, and that her members are only precious in and through the work of Christ, may we be led to prize that work more highly, and to rely on it more unreservedly than we have hitherto done. O give us clear and comforting views of its wisdom and sufficiency; and enable us to wait for the testimony of thy Holy Spirit, who alone can guide us into all truth. Help us to acknowledge thee as the source of all blessing, to trust entirely to thee in all our undertakings and engagements, and to be careful to give thee the glory alike of our worldly successes, and of our spiritual attainments. We rejoice that thou didst honor Christ with such wondrous victory. We would honor and serve him as the Anointed of God, the king of Zion, and the head over all things to the church. Subdue all his enemies under him. Let the wicked, both among Jews and Gentiles, be made to lie prostrate before the glories of the cross; and let the time speedily arrive when Jesus, the Mediator, will be hailed as supreme, by the people of all lands. Bless our rulers and all in authority over us. May they rule for thy glory. We thank thee for the return of the sabbath. Meet with thy people in their holy assemblies. Bless the church with which we are connected. Enrich her ministers with a double portion of thy Spirit. Encourage her elders in their work and labor of love. Establish all her people in their most holy faith. Bless the congregation with which we are accustomed to worship. Let thy ministering servant, who is to proclaim to us the message of life, be strengthened for his arduous duty,

and honored with tokens of success. Let thy people receive their portion of food in due season. Let the careless be awakened, and the openly wicked reclaimed. Go with us, whom thou hast mercifully preserved during the past night, to thy house of prayer, and enable us to spend this day in thy service. Graciously hear our prayers, and pardon our sins, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM XXII.

ALMIGHTY, God thou art the righteous Lawgiver and Sovereign of heaven and earth. We stand in awe of thy Majesty, which is unspeakably great. Thou art clothed with light, as with a garment. Thou art the holy One of Israel. Evil cannot dwell before thee, nor fools stand in thy presence. All thy works are holy. Thy commandment is holy, just, and good. We abase ourselves in the dust, for we have sinned against thee, and in thy sight. Though thou art great, we have not feared thy greatness, nor had respect unto thy glory. With desperate presumption we have trampled on thy law, and incurred its tremendous penalties. We are a race of sinners; the whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint. Nor can we help ourselves. We can render no sufficient answer unto thee. To all men naturally, there is only a fearful looking for of judgment, and fiery indignation. But ever-praised be thy name, that thou hast had pity upon us. When we were ready to perish, thou didst come to our deliverance. Thy voice was heard declaring, 'Deliver from going down to the pit; I have found a ransom.' We bless thee for that new and better covenant which was sealed with atoning blood, and which includes in its wise provisions, pardon even to the chief of sinners, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We adore the manifestation of thy glory in the doing and the dying of the Saviour. 'Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us; and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.' We look back with adoring wonder and gratitude on his advent in our world: his life of sorrow, suffering, and shame; and the awful agony which preceded his death. Enable us to behold him as the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world; and, as we stand in faith at the foot of his cross, may each of us, in reliance on his infinite merit, exclaim, 'My Lord, and my God.' O that our guilt may be washed away in his blood, and our persons accepted in his righteousness; and that, as he was raised from the dead in token of the completeness of his sacrifice, we may be raised with him to newness of life, and animated with the hope of sharing in his glory. As thou hast exalted him to thy right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour; may he plead our cause there—reign over us as our spiritual King, and in us by his Spirit; and under his mediatorial care, may we show forth in our comfort and holiness, the unsearchable riches of thy grace. Fill us with the peace and joy of thy children, that we may

rejoice continually in the righteousness of the Saviour, and may declare its perfection and beauty abroad, from day to day.

Let the time soon come, when all nations shall know Christ, and trust in him. Send forth the gospel with triumphant power; and, as thou hast given the government of all things into the hands of Christ, give him to reign in the hearts of all men. We thank thee for this Sabbath-day, now drawing to its close. Bless a preached gospel throughout the world. Keep thy good hand around thy chosen; rapidly increase their number, and sanctify the influences of their holy examples. Dwell in the midst of us. Bless old and young with thy salvation. Let our souls be in health, and prosper before thee. Preserve us during the darkness of the night; and if spared to enter on a new day, enable us to walk in thy fear. May we remember, for our direction and comfort, the truths which we have this day heard. May a savor of divine things be kept alive upon our hearts; and growing in the purity and the heavenly-mindedness of the gospel, may men take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. Hear our prayers, and pardon all our sins, for the sake of our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XLIV.

O LORD, thou art the King eternal, immortal, and invisible. Thy dominion is an everlasting dominion, and thy kingdom ruleth over all. None can stay thy hand from working, or say unto thee, What doest thou? Thou hast the hearts of all men in thy hand, and turnest them whithersoever thou wilt. Do thou humble us under a sense of our ignorance, of our entire dependence on thee, and of our unworthiness of the least of all thy mercies. Give us a deeper and more affecting sense of thy glorious perfections, of thy constant presence with us, and of thine overruling providence. May we feel more and more deeply that we are bound to acknowledge thee in all our ways, and to set thee ever before us, and be enabled, through thy Spirit, more fully and faithfully to discharge this duty. Do thou lead us to view every event in our life, and every circumstance in our situation, in connection with thee, the great ruler and disposer of all things, and in connection with the great purposes for which thou hast created and preserved us. Grant, O God, that all our afflictions and disappointments, whether traceable more immediately to thine own agency, or to the instrumentality of our fellow-men, may be made the means of impressing us with a deeper sense of sin's exceeding sinfulness, and of humbling us under a conviction of the manifold and aggravated violations of thy law, of which we have been guilty during all our past lives. May we be encouraged to confess our sins by the assurance that thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. There is but one Mediator between God and man. There

is no other name given under heaven among men whereby we can be saved, but that of Jesus only. But we rejoice in the assurance that thou hast laid the iniquities of us all upon him, that by his stripes we might be healed. Grant that we may know more of him, and of the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable to his death; that we may attain at last to the resurrection of life. Enable us to love him, whom we have not seen, and though now we see him not, yet believing what thou hast revealed to us concerning his present power and authority, may we rejoice in him, with a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. Assist us, O Lord, to discharge aright, according to thy word, the various duties resulting from the relations in which we stand to each other, and to our fellow-men. Bring us more and more under the influence of that love which is the fulfilling of the law, and grant especially that we, who are now assembled before thee, may ever love another, out of pure hearts, fervently, as thou hast given us commandment, and may be ever ready to make sacrifices of our own ease and comfort, for the promotion of one another's welfare. Blot out, O Lord, all our sins. Guide us ever by thy counsel, preserve us from all danger and from every temptation, for all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, whom thou hearest always. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXIV. 29-51.

O GOD, thou art the hearer and the answerer of prayer, and unto thee should all flesh come. Enable us to draw near unto thee, through that new and living way which Christ has opened up, that through thy Spirit helping our infirmities, we may worship thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth; that with all humility we may confess our sins, and with all fervency offer up our desires, for things agreeable to thy will and needful for our salvation. We are indeed unworthy to come into thy presence, or to take thy holy name into our polluted lips. Our hearts are naturally deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. We have still a law in our members which wars against the law of our minds, and often brings us into captivity to the law of sin and of death. During this, and every other day of our past lives, we have been sinning against thee, in thought, word, and deed. It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail not, that we are still in the land of the living, and in the place of hope. When there was no eye to pity us, and no hand to help us, then thine own eye pitied us, and thy right hand brought salvation. In the fulness of time thou didst send forth thy Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem us who were under the law, and thou art now, in Christ, reconciling a guilty world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. Herein, O God, is love, not that we have

loved thee, but that thou hast loved us, and given thine only begotten Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Grant, Lord, that we, beholding thee as thou art revealed in the face of thy Son, may be constrained to love thee with all our hearts, to devote ourselves to thy service, and to labor for the promotion of thy cause. While we look back to Christ's humiliation, and sufferings, and death as the only ground of our hope and confidence, and enter habitually through faith into that within the veil, whither he, as our forerunner, is for us entered, may we also be enabled to look forward to the period when he shall come a second time, without sin, unto salvation; to be admired in his saints, and held in reverence of them that believe, as well as to take vengeance on those who know him not, and obey not his gospel. Thou hast appointed a day in which thou wilt judge the world in righteousness, and in which we must all appear before thy judgment-seat, to give an account of our actions. We know not when this day may come, but thou hast told us that as death leaves us, so judgment finds us, and we are daily reminded that in the midst of life we are in death. Enable us, under the influence of these truths, impressed and applied by thy Spirit, to be ever watching and praying, lest we should enter into temptation. Make it, O Lord, the great desire of our hearts, and the object of our most fervent prayers and strenuous exertions, that at whatever time the Lord may come, he may find us engaged in his service, exhibiting the same mind which was also in him, and walking even as he also walked. May our minds be deeply impressed with the fearful consequences of being called hence while still impenitent and unbelieving, and may the terrors of the Lord concur with a deep sense of thy redeeming mercy, in constraining us to give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, and to be ever pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Hear us and answer us, for Christ's sake Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XLV.

O LORD God Almighty, enable us to approach thee with profound reverence and godly fear, regarding thee as glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, and continually doing wonders, and remembering that thou knowest our very thoughts afar off, and art intimately acquainted with all our ways. There is no searching of thine understanding. We can never, at any moment or in any circumstances, depart from thy presence or flee from thy Spirit. When we contemplate thy constant presence with us, thine unlimited dominion, and thine immaculate holiness, it becomes us to be ashamed and confounded before thee. To us, indeed, belong only shame and confusion of face, because we are sinners, but with thee there is forgiveness, that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption, that

thou mayest be sought after. Thou hast looked upon us with compassion, in our low and lost estate. Thou didst say, Save from going down to the pit, for I have found a ransom. Thou hast laid our help on one able and mighty to save. Thou hast set forth thy Son to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, and when he had by himself purged our sins, thou didst raise him up to thine own right hand, and gave him glory, that our faith and our hope might be in him. Enable us to place our sole reliance on what he has done and suffered in the room of guilty men. May we be firmly persuaded that he is able and willing to save, even unto the uttermost, all that come unto thee through him; and renouncing every other ground of hope, and abandoning, henceforward, every attempt to establish a righteousness of our own, may we rest on him alone for salvation, as he is set before us, and offered to us, in the gospel. We would count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ, and desire to be willing to bear the loss of all things, that we may win him, and be found in him. May we cordially exult in the assurance, that he who once died for sins and rose again for our justification, is now seated at thy right hand, King of kings and Lord of lords, and will make all things to work together for good to them that love him. May we delight to trace thy wisdom, and forbearance, and kindness, in thy dealings with thy people in every age. And assured that thou canst easily bring good out of evil, and that they who put their trust in thee shall never be put to shame, may we become every day more resigned to thy will, and more disposed to regard with thankfulness, all the dispensations of thy providence concerning us. Uphold and comfort us by the assurance that, though clouds and darkness are sometimes round about thee, yet that justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. May we dwell more habitually upon all thy great and precious promises, and thus be encouraged to lay aside every weight, and to run with patience the race that has been set before us, until we attain to the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls. Hear our prayers, forgive all our sins, and do for us above what we can ask or think, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXV. 1-31.

WHEREWITHAL, O Lord, shall we come before thee, or bow ourselves before the most high God? We are sinful dust and ashes. We have been all guilty of the folly of departing from the fountain of living waters, and of hewing out to ourselves broken cisterns that can hold no water. We have been spending our money for that which is not bread, and our labor for that which satisfieth not. But thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they should turn from their ways and live. Thou hast made Christ to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Thou art now graciously inviting and be-

seeing us to be reconciled unto thee through Christ, and art assuring us, that them that come unto thee, thou wilt in nowise reject. We must lament that we have neglected the great salvation, and paid little regard to him who was speaking to us from heaven. We have not been duly concerned to understand the nature of Christ's kingdom, and to live like the faithful subjects of him who reigns in it. Thou hast given us all many talents, capacities, and opportunities for promoting thy glory, advancing thy cause, and securing our own true welfare. To thee we owe all our worldly substance, and all our sources of influence. Thou hast appointed the boundaries of our habitations, and determined all the events which have befallen us. Thou hast fully made known to us thy will. Thou hast imposed upon us the most powerful obligations to glorify thee in our bodies, and in our spirits, and to devote ourselves, and all that we have, to the promotion of thy purposes. And yet, O Lord, we must confess that we have forgotten thee, the God that made us, and lightly esteemed thee, the rock of our salvation. We have not spent our time, or employed our worldly substance, or exercised our faculties under a due sense of our responsibility, and for the great ends for which they were bestowed upon us. We have no excuse to offer unto thee for our neglect and disobedience. We confess our guilt and folly. We beseech thee to look upon us, not as we are in ourselves, but in the face of thine own anointed One, and for his sake to heal all our backslidings, to receive us graciously, and to love us freely, and let our iniquity be taken away. May we be come much more diligent in thy service, and much more attentive to the work which thou hast given us to do. Enable us to guard carefully against everything that may tempt us to neglect the salvation of our souls, or to fail in the faithful and diligent improvement of all our talents. Impress us at all times with the conviction, that while we are to occupy till Christ come, we must then give an account of all things done in the body, and have our everlasting condition determined by the improvement we have made of the talents and privileges thou hast bestowed. May all that we have learned concerning thee, and thy character, impress us with a deeper sense of our obligations to be ever abounding in thy work; and do thou communicate to us, such supplies of grace and strength, as that we may all at length, having finished our course, and kept the faith, receive the crown of life, and be admitted into the joy of our Lord. Blot out, O Lord, all our sins, supply abundantly all our wants, and preserve us in safety into thy kingdom, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XLVII.

O LORD, most mighty, most gracious, we would bless thee at all times; we would magnify thy name together. Clouds and darkness are round about thee, but justice and judgment are the habita-

tion of thy throne. Thou givest not an account unto any, but in exercising thy absolute sovereignty, thou doest all things well. Marvellously and graciously didst thou deal with thy people of old, God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. And art thou not the same yesterday, to-day, and forever, without variableness or shadow of turning? We thank thee for the fulfilment of the promise given to Abraham of a seed in whom all the nations of the earth should be blessed. That in accomplishment of that promise, thine only Son took our nature, and obeyed and suffered the just for the unjust. We thank thee that Jesus Christ hath brought in an everlasting righteousness. Holy Spirit, take of the things of Christ, and communicate them to us. Communicate spiritual life to those of us whom thou mayest see to be yet dead in trespasses and sins. Fan the feeble spark into a flame. Renew and sanctify each one of us, day by day. Write thy law on our hearts, and make us a willing people in the day of thy power. Yea, Lord, let thy law be a light unto our feet, and a lamp unto our path. May thy statutes be our delight and our counsellors. O God, bless, for our instruction and direction, the portion of thy word that we have just read. Enable us to cultivate kindly affections one to another. Unite in the bonds of Christian love, those whom thou hast united by the ties of nature and of blood. Make us forgiving and kind, as Joseph was. Make us faithful and just, as well as kind, and affectionate, and tender-hearted, even as Joseph was faithful in all the house of Pharaoh. And as in thy mercy (glory be to thy name for it) we have One greater than Joseph to provide for us, O may we be submissive and obedient to him who is our Saviour, placing confidence in his wisdom, and power, and love. Throughout the pilgrimage of life, and amidst the solemnities of death, may we remember and be cheered by thy promises. We rejoice that they are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus; and that sooner shall heaven and earth pass away, than one jot or tittle of them fail. If thou bringest us to hoary hairs, wilt thou not be with us? If thou takest us early away, shall not that be gain? O may thy presence go with us in all the journeyings of our pilgrimage, to protect and guide us. Be with us to-day in every step we take, in every duty to which we may be called, and whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to thy glory. Hear and answer us, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXV. 31-46.

O LORD our God, we adore thee as the greatest, the wisest, and the best of beings. We thank thee for the injunction to be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make our requests known unto thee. Seated on a throne of grace, thou hast ordained thy Son Jesus Christ the mediator of a covenant with thy people, which is ordered in all things and sure.

But, O God, we would remember that, though now seated on a throne of grace, thou wilt one day appear seated on a throne of judgment. Deeply impress on our minds the fact that we are rapidly ripening for the judgment. Lay bare to us our natural unpreparedness for a day of strict impartial judgment. Lord, what can the spiritual dead expect, but to be left in the power of death eternal? But, most merciful God, we adore thee that thou hast made provision, by the scheme of redemption, for communicating spiritual life to those who are spiritually dead. We bless and adore thee for that great mystery of the gospel, the union of believers with their Saviour. O unite us to Christ, that we may be partakers of the spiritual and divine life that is in him. May we, being members of Christ, be obedient and submissive to our glorious Head. May we, being members one of another, love each other as we do ourselves. Incline and enable us to do good to all as we have opportunity, especially to such as are of the household of faith. Being the disciples of a Master who went about continually doing good, may it be as our meat and our drink, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit and comfort the poor and afflicted. Enable us to manifest the reality and strength of our gratitude to Jesus Christ, by abounding in works of faith and labors of love. O give us such a view of our obligations to our Redeemer, as shall quell every feeling of spiritual pride, and impress us with the conviction that, when we have done all, we are unprofitable servants. O Lord, what are we that thou shouldst put it in our power to do any kindness to others? Blessed be thy name that, when we have nothing else to give, thou acceptest of our smallest acts of kindness done for thy sake. Verily, O Lord, this day's thoughts, and words, and acts, will make a part of our account at the great judgment. Pardon what thy searching eye has seen amiss; for the sake of Jesus Christ blot it out. Give thy blessing on what we have been enabled to attempt in discharge of the duties required of us. Accept of our thanks for the mercies we have received and for the comforts we have enjoyed. And now, O Lord, we would lay us down in peace, and sleep: do thou make us dwell in safety, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XLVIII.

ALMIGHTY Jehovah, in whose hand our life is, we would come to thee this morning by that new and living way which thou hast appointed, even by Jesus Christ. Behold, O God, our Shield; look on the face of thine Anointed, and be well pleased with us in him. Worthy art thou, O Lord, to receive all honor, and glory, and praise, and blessing. Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, we rejoice in thine exaltation and glory. Halleluiah! he who died for our sins on Calvary, hath now on his vesture and on his thigh, a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Lord

Jesus, we trust in thee. Enable us rightly to understand and value the blessedness of being numbered with thy people. May we even count the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt. May we endure the difficulties and hardships of the Christian life, as seeing him who is invisible. May we look not to the things that are seen and temporal, but to the things that are unseen and eternal. Keep us mindful of thy promises, O faithful God, and may it be our strength to rest on them, and our joy to declare them in the land of our pilgrimage. And as thou art justly entitled, in the exercise of thy sovereign wisdom, to cross our inclination, and order events very differently from our judgment, may we learn and practise submission to thy will in all things. Our covenant God, we earnestly beseech thee, become the covenant God of every member of our family, and of all who are near and dear to us: then, O how safe shall they be, and how satisfied and happy shall we be; for, do not all things work together for good to them who love thee? May we all be helpers of one another's faith, and live together as fellow-heirs of heaven.

O Lord, we bear about with us bodies of sin and death. May we die daily. Let the instances of mortality that we witness, lead us to lay to heart our own latter end. We bless thee for the records of thy people's triumph over death, which we find in thy word: for the instances of it also which we have witnessed. And O, when our own dying hour cometh, let thy joy be then in our heart, and thy praises on our lips. Like Jacob, thy servant, let our faculties then be entire; and let us be strengthened to bear our testimony in the presence of beloved relatives, to the power and preciousness of the gospel salvation. We cast all our cares on thee this day. Keep us mindful of our dependence on thee, and give us grace to ask thy counsel and blessing in every step and duty of this day. With united thanksgivings for the mercies of the past night, we commend ourselves to thy keeping and guidance, and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXVI. 1-35.

O LORD our God, what shall we render unto thee for all thine unmerited kindness? Thy mercies are new to us every morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Thou makest the outgoings of the evening and the morning to rejoice over us. May we see the hand of our reconciled Father in every comfort we enjoy. We bewail the corruption of our heart—the perverseness of our will—the sinfulness of our conduct. How much of each hast thou this day seen in every one of us? O for Christ's sake, grant a free forgiveness. Cleanse thou us, and we shall be clean. Enable us in every way to show our love to the blessed Saviour. Let us never be ashamed of manifesting the sense that we entertain of his excellency. Suffer us not

to deny him; enable us to confess him before men. O Lord, we mourn over the terrible depravity of our fallen nature as exhibited by the chief priests of the Jews, and by that disciple who betrayed his Master. Let us not forget that the same root of corruption is in us. Blessed be God for restraining grace, that may have prevented the gross out-breakings of this corruption. Lord, cleanse thou us also from secret sins. O give us a tender conscience and a humble spirit. Teach us to be very distrustful of ourselves, and to place full trust in thee. O Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that we love thee. By thy grace and Spirit maintain that love warm and vigorous. Without a continual supply from thee, most gracious Lord, it would languish and decay. O let none of us, like Peter, shrink from acknowledging our connection with Jesus of Nazareth; though we should die for thee, we would not deny thee. For, blessed Saviour, didst thou not die for us? Didst thou not remember us with a most tender affection, even when thine own terrible agonies were very near at hand? Enable us rightly to call to remembrance thy dying love, especially as often as we sit down at the communion table. May the love of Christ constrain us to love him who first loved us, and to manifest that love all day long, and every day by a holy life and conversation. Let us be neither traitorous nor self-confident disciples; but create in us a clean heart, and renew in us a right spirit, and perfect thy strength in our weakness. And now, Lord, draw thou the curtains of safety around us. Let no sins prevail against us: let no evil or danger come near our dwelling or persons this night. Refresh us with slumber, and when we awake, may we be with thee. O Lord, hear, forgive, and do, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—GENESIS XLIX.

UNTO thee do we desire this morning to lift up our souls, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock. Thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth. We thank thee for all that goodness of which thou art ever affording us the most endearing manifestations. We would bless thee, in an especial manner, for the great love wherewith thou hast loved us in Jesus Christ, and for that display which thou hast made of thy perfections, in the scheme of our redemption through him. We thank thee for the promise thou didst make of old unto Abraham, that in his seed should all the families of the earth be blessed; to Jacob that the Shiloh should come; and to the patriarchs, that they should all be righteous. We thank thee for the mercy that prompted, and for the wisdom that planned, and for the power that accomplished the great work of our redemption. We would count it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Apply

to each of us the efficacy of Christ's death for pardon and purification. Create within us clean hearts, renew within us right spirits. Restore to each of us the joys of thy salvation, and grant that, in soul, body, and spirit, we may be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord. May we look to the cross of Christ, and yield to those affecting motives which it presents to all holiness, both of heart and life. As we advance in life, may we grow in likeness to thee, so that when, like the patriarch of old, we come to go the way of all the earth, we may be prepared for the enjoyment of that rest which remains for the people of God, and be enabled to say with the apostle, that we know that when the earthly house of this tabernacle shall be dissolved, we shall have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. With ourselves we would, this morning, be mindful of all our brethren of mankind. Add unto thy church daily such as shall be saved. Give the heathen to thy Son for an inheritance, and the uttermost ends of the earth for a possession. Let the kingdoms of the earth become the kingdoms of the Lord and of his Christ, and to him let the gathering of the people be. Let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end. Abundantly bless our temporal provision, and let there be no want in our land. Sanctify affliction to those who are afflicted, and prepare the dying for death, and judgment, and an eternal world. Be very gracious, we beseech thee, to our friends, and to all who are connected with us by the ties of kindred, affection, or neighborhood. Encompass them with thy favor as with a shield, and let the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep their hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. To thy guidance and protection we would commend ourselves this day, both as a family and as individuals. Do thou instruct us to avoid the temptations that may be before us, or help us to overcome them, and making it as our meat and our drink to do thy will all the day long, may we walk in the fear of the Lord, and the comfort of the Holy Ghost. Hear our prayers in these things, and be pleased to send us an answer in peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXVI. 36-75.

WE thank thee, O Lord, for that liberty of access which we ever have to the footstool of thy throne of grace. We desire to come before thee this evening, as we are permitted to do in the multitude of thy tender mercies, blessing thee for the assurance thou hast given us, that thou art the hearer of prayer, and the comforter of all of us in all our tribulations, and rejoicing to believe, that if we approach thee in his name whom thou hearest always, thou wilt listen to our cry, and wilt fulfil our petitions, and even, while we are yet speaking, wilt condescend to hear. O hear the prayer we desire to put up, for mercy to pardon our offences, and grace to help us in time of need. We are sinners in thy sight, and we acknowledge before

thee the need in which we stand of his salvation, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; whose soul was exceeding sorrowful, and who bore the chastisement of our peace. We pray for a conformity to the death of Jesus Christ. Seeing that we are at enmity with thee, do thou reconcile us by the death of thy Son. Knowing the plagues of our sinful hearts, may we seek shelter beneath the sanctuary of his cross who was there lifted up as an hiding-place from the wind and a covert from the tempest of divine wrath, in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin. And O, for his sake, do thou send thy Holy Spirit into our hearts. Without him we can do nothing well pleasing in thy sight. Pour him out, therefore, in rich abundance upon us. Work in us through him the whole of thy good pleasure, and the work of faith with power. We thank thee for the mercies of the day. We commit ourselves to thy protection throughout the night, and reposing beneath the shelter of thy wings, we will not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flieth by day, nor of the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor of the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. We would commend to thee the large family of affliction. Hear the cry of the humble, revive the spirits of the disconsolate, supply the wants of the needy, comfort those who are bereaved, and prepare the dying for their great change. Hear our prayers, and forgive our sins, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—GENESIS L.

WE desire, O Lord, to come before thee at this time, and to bless thee for the rest and preservation of the past night. While many since last night, have slept the sleep of death, many more been laid down on beds of affliction, from which they shall arise no more, on this side of eternity, we are preserved before thee in health of body, and in soundness of mind;—the living, O Lord, the living to praise thee, as we desire to do this day. Thou hast preserved us, but our time is both short and uncertain. Behold thou hast made our days as an handbreadth, and our age is as nothing before thee, and though a man do live threescore and ten years, and rejoice in them all, yet dost thou at last bring him to death, and to the house appointed for all living. And the frailty we experience is the fruit of our corruption. Thou with rebukes dost correct man for his iniquity; thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth. O humble us when we think of our guilt in the sight of Almighty God. May we betake ourselves to him who gave his life a ransom for many, and his flesh for the life of the world, and died that he might put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh. Jacob is not, and Joseph is not. For there is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power on the day of death, and there is no

discharge in that war. But though man lieth down, and riseth not till the heavens be no more, yet blessed be thy name, for the prospect of that glorious inheritance which thou hast revealed in thy word, and confirmed by thy grace. Do thou grant that we may ever have respect to it. Unlike the men of this world, may we remember that there remaineth a rest for the people of God, and exercise an holy fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into rest, any of us should seem to come short of it. Being strangers and pilgrims upon earth, as all our fathers were, may we walk as citizens of another country; and knowing that this is thy will respecting us, even our sanctification, and that no unrighteous person shall inherit the kingdom of Christ, and of God, O may we ever abound in those fruits of righteousness which are to thy praise and glory, always doing those things which are acceptable in thy sight, so that when the day does come that like Jacob we must gather up our feet into the bed, and yield up the ghost, and be gathered unto our people, we may be ready to give in our account, and found meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Thou who art the God of all the families on the earth, we beseech thee to dwell in this house. May the name of it be, The Lord is there. Do thou say of it, This is my rest, here will I take up my abode. May every member of this family be a member of that family of which Christ is the head. Preserve each of us this day from those numerous accidents to which human life is ever exposed. Keep each of us from all evil, especially from sin, the greatest of evil. Hold up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. And unto thee, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost be ascribed, as is most due, all glory, and honor, and power, and praise, world without end. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXVII. 1-32.

O LORD, we would come this evening before thee, with the offering of humility and self-abasement. Thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness, neither shall evil dwell in thy sight. Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Wherewithal shall we come before the Lord, and bow ourselves in the presence of the most High God? We are indeed a seed of evil-doers, children that are corrupters, who have forsaken the Lord, and trampled under foot the Son of God, and done despite to the Spirit of grace. Lord give us to come before thee mourning over and confessing our multiplied transgressions. Humble us under a sense of our guilt, and yet suffer us not to fall into any despondency of thy mercy, but give us that everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, which, in the gospel of thy Son, we are encouraged to cherish. We bless thee for the provision made for sinners in the gospel; that thou hast there made known to us a Redeemer by whose merits thy mercy is manifested in the salvation of sinners, even while thy jus-

tice is satisfied in the condemnation of sin. O for his sake take away all our iniquity; receive us graciously, heal our backsliding, and love us freely. Give us that repentance which is after a godly sort, and which never needeth to be repented of, and sanctify to us the gift of thy Son, in his turning each of us from his iniquity. Impart unto us that faith which is his peculiar gift, which worketh by love, which purifieth the heart, which overcometh the world, which is fruitful in every good word and work. Clothe us with the robes of his righteousness, who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners, that we may be found in him, and may know him, and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable to his death. And grant, holy Father, that he who was made manifest in our nature, may be made manifest in our persons. Help us, we beseech thee, by the agency of thy Spirit, to abstain even from the appearance of evil. Reclaim us from every wicked to every perfect way, from darkness to light, from sin to holiness, from the love and the service of satan, to the love and the service of thee our God. And for this end do thou sanctify all our means of grace. Bless to us this evening the reading of thy word, that it may be profitable to direct; the privilege of prayer, that we may be refreshed, as we draw nigh to thee, in this act of devotion; the ordinance of affliction, that we may feel we are chastened of the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world; bless to us the appointment of the Christian Sabbath; and when we worship thee on the first day of the week, may we find that thou art specially gracious on that day of rest. And with ourselves we desire to remember before thee all our brethren of mankind. Send the knowledge of the gospel to the heathen; make the savor of Christ's name manifest in every place. Our friends we commend to thy friendship, our enemies to thy forgiveness, our benefactors to thy reward. Visit the abodes of the afflicted and the dying, and give to them that support and those consolations which this world cannot give, and which death itself cannot take away. Spread over us the wings of thy protection this night. Be thou our refuge and our defence, and if agreeable to thy will, may we be raised up in health and strength, on the morning of a new day, fitted for its duties, and fortified for its trials. Hear our prayers in these things; God of our righteousness, forgive our unworthiness to appear before thee, and bless us, and accept of us, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Seventh Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS XXIII. XXIV.

O LORD, we adore thee as the Father of light and of life, with whom there is no variableness neither shadow of turning. From thee cometh down every good and perfect gift. We adore thee as the author of our being, and the great source of all our happiness. Thy providence has sustained us in life, and supplied all our returning wants. Thou hast preserved us from dangers which we could neither have foreseen nor prevented. When from the power of sin within us, or the influence of temptation without, we have, like sheep gone astray, each turning to his own way, thou hast magnified thy great name, even the riches of thy mercy and grace in Jesus Christ, in bringing back to thyself, the shepherd and bishop of our souls, in restoring us to peace of mind, and causing us to walk in the paths of righteousness. We acknowledge our great unworthiness of all the goodness, the mercy, and the truth which thou hast shown us. Thy goodness we have often requited with ingratitude, and thy laws, which are holy, just, and good, we have often violated. Enter not into judgment with us, for in thy sight no living can be justified. For the sake of thy Son, our advocate and intercessor with thee, the Father, forgive us all our past offences, and grant us thy Holy Spirit to renew us more and more in the spirit of our mind, and restore unto us even the joy of thy salvation. Keep us straight and undefiled in the way of thy commandments, and let our dwelling be in thy house forever. We desire to render unto thee our united gratitude for thy providential care of us during the past night, and for the light and mercies of a new morning, even another sabbath of the Son of man. May we be deeply impressed with a sense of our invaluable privileges as Christians, and enabled to walk worthy of them. Whilst many of our fellow-creatures, through the ignorance that is in them, are bowing down themselves to stocks, and stones, and graven images, the works of men's hands, we are invited to worship thee, the creator of heaven and earth, the preserver and moral ruler of the universe, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and in him the God and Father of all who believe. Prepare our hearts for thy service, this day, in the sanctuary, that we may worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Forbid that we should draw near unto thee with the mouth, whilst our hearts are wandering after the vanities of the world. May we approach thee with clean hands, and a pure heart. May thy servants in the ministry be enabled to preach the gospel with all plainness and fidelity, and the hearers to receive the word of truth with faith and affection, that it may have an abiding influence on their principles, and temper and conduct; and may the God of peace,

who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM XXV.

O LORD, thou art the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. Thou art near unto all who call upon thee in truth and sincerity. Thou art a present help in every time of need. They who know thy name have trusted in thee, and they who have trusted in thee have never been disappointed. We bless thee for the clear and full discovery thou hast given us, in thy holy word, of thy character and our own duty, and the way to immortal life and happiness. But we acknowledge that we have not made that improvement of our privileges which we ought to have done; that, instead of seeking that wisdom which cometh from above, we have been trusting to our own wisdom and strength; walking according to the counsels of our own hearts, which are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. We have gone astray from thee, even from our very youth. Remember not against us the sins of our youth, nor the transgressions of our riper years. In the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out all our iniquities, and fill us with that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation, and which needeth not to be repented of. Thou art the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. This is thy name and memorial to all generations, and we rejoice to know that, though thy throne is encompassed with clouds and darkness, and thy footsteps hid in the mighty deep, yet justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, righteousness and peace go before thy face continually, and all thy paths are mercy and truth unto them that keep thy covenant and thy testimonies. Be thou at all times our refuge and defence, and when at any time our hearts are overwhelmed with grief, lead us to the rock that is higher than we. May our minds be stayed on thee, and filled with that peace which flows from an interest in thy favor, and the well-founded hope of future and eternal happiness. May we be anxious about nothing in this world, but in everything, by prayer for such blessings as we need, and deprecation against the evils to which we are exposed, and thanksgiving for thy mercies, let our requests be made known unto thee, and do thou, the God of peace, fill us with all peace in believing. Follow with a rich blessing the preaching of the gospel. May the time soon come when all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn unto thee, the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations come and worship before thee. Bless our native country, and all ranks of persons among us, and grant

that we may be distinguished more and more for that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and may we hate sin, which is the reproach, and must prove the ruin, of any people. Bless all our friends and relations. Reward our benefactors; forgive our enemies; and enable us from the heart to forgive those who offend us. We commit the keeping of our souls to thee this night, as unto a faithful Creator, and do thou, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, preserve us from all evil. Forgive the sins of our holy duties, for sin mingles with our best services, and help us to spend all our remaining sabbaths and time on earth in a manner acceptable to thee, and profitable to ourselves, that we may be admitted to the enjoyment of that everlasting rest, which remaineth for the people of God. These blessings we humbly but earnestly ask of thee, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—EXODUS I.

O LORD, we adore thee as the great creator, the constant preserver, and the moral ruler of the universe. Thou doest according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; no creature can stay thy hand from working, nor say unto thee, What doest thou. Thou rulest over the kingdoms of men, rendering all their plans and counsels subservient to the accomplishment of thine own infinitely wise and gracious purposes. Thou causest the wrath of man to praise thee, and restrainest the remainder of his wrath. We are all in thy hand as the clay is in the hand of the potter, and thou canst do with us whatever seemeth good in thy sight. We rejoice to know that thou art not only the sovereign ruler of the universe, and the disposer of all lots, but also that thy goodness and wisdom are equal to thy greatness. Thou art indeed angry with the wicked every day; but thine eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show thyself strong in behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards thee. May our minds be impressed at all times, with a deep sense of the majesty and purity of thy character, and our own sinfulness and unworthiness. Lead us more and more to see what an evil and bitter thing it is to depart from God. We bless and adore thy great name, that when all flesh had wandered from the love and service of thee, the one living and true God, —when there was no eye to pity nor hand to help; thine eye saw and pitied, and thy right arm brought salvation. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation in the house of his servant David, as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us. We bless thee for the faithfulness thou hast shown, in performing thy promises of mercy to thy church, and for the deliverances which thou hast often wrought in her behalf. We especially bless and

adore thee, for the great salvation thou hast wrought for us by thy Son Jesus Christ. We have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of our sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. We pray, O Lord, that as we profess to be thy redeemed children—redeemed, not with such corruptible things as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; may we consider ourselves as bound, by every obligation, to thy service. Let us not yield our members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but may we yield ourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and our members as instruments of righteousness unto God. Let no sin at any time obtain dominion over us; aid us by thy Holy Spirit, to live not to ourselves, but to him who died for us and rose again. Make us truly grateful for thy preserving care during the past night, and for the light and mercies of this morning. Preserve us this day from all evil, and enable us faithfully and conscientiously to do our duty. Whilst engaged in the duties of our calling during the week, may we retain on our minds a sense of thy presence, and of the great account we must render unto thee. We pray for the whole family of man, that all who are partakers of our common nature, may soon be partakers of our Christian privileges. Bless our native country, and all ranks of persons among us. Sanctify affliction to all who are visited with it, and prepare the dying for their great change. Guide us by thy counsel while we live, and afterwards receive us into glory, and all we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXVII. 33–66.

O LORD, thou art holy who inhabitest the praises of Israel; thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; evil shall not dwell with thee, neither shall the foolish stand in thy presence. We acknowledge our great unworthiness to come into thy presence, or to take thy name into our sinful lips. We are altogether as an unclean thing: we have gone astray from thee, the fountain of living waters, and hewn out unto ourselves cisterns—broken cisterns, that can hold no water. When we reflect on the sins we have committed, and the duties we have neglected, we acknowledge that we have great reason to lay our hands on our mouths, and our mouths in the dust, crying, Unclean, unclean, God be merciful to us sinners. We bless thee, though we are unworthy to lift up our eyes unto the place where thine honor dwelleth, that we are not only permitted but encouraged to come unto thee, in the name of Jesus Christ our great high priest, who died for our sins and rose again for our justification, and who liveth forever in heaven to make intercession for his people. We bless thee, that he came into the world on the great errand of our salvation: that he was obedient to the whole will of his Father unto death, even the death of the cross; and that, in token of thine ac-

ceptance of his sacrifice, thou didst raise him from the dead, and gave him glory, that our faith and hope might be in thee. We bless thee that thou art in Christ reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their sins and trespasses, and that through him we may be justified from all those things from which we could not have been justified by the law of Moses. May we see more and more the evil nature of sin, and the value of that salvation which is through Christ, and which shall be followed with eternal glory. Enable us to follow out the great end of our Saviour's death and resurrection; as he died an offering for sin, may we die to its love and practice; and as he rose to the power of an endless life in his Father's kingdom, may we set our affections chiefly on things above, where Christ sitteth at thy right hand. May we receive the doctrines of Christ with faith and affection, and endeavor to imitate his example in his suffering, as well as in his active obedience, doing with diligence and fidelity whatever we know to be our duty, and suffering with patience and fortitude whatever thou art pleased to appoint, and may we be preserved safe unto the day of complete redemption. Having boldness to enter into the holiest, by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he hath consecrated for us, may we come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Forgive the sins we have this day committed, and our shortcomings in duty. We pray that the boundaries of Messiah's kingdom may be extended, that he may see more and more of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied. Visit the fatherless and the widow, comfort the afflicted, and prepare the dying for their great change. Watch over us this night, and let no evil come nigh our dwelling. While we live may we live unto the Lord; when we die, may we die unto the Lord; that being thine in time, we may also be thine in eternity. These our humble, but earnest supplications, we present in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—EXODUS II.

OUR Father who art in heaven, thou art entitled to the reverence, the homage, and the esteem and gratitude of all who draw near thee, for thou art good as well as great, and gracious as well as almighty. Early were we cast on thy care, and no lapse of time, no change of circumstances, have ever found us without the tokens of thy mercy, and forbearance, and love. From day to day thou hast made thy goodness to pass before us, and supplied us with all that could minister to our comfort and welfare. Often hast thou disappointed our fears; often hast thou exceeded our hopes; often hast thou turned events, apparently the most adverse, into sources of pure enjoyment and permanent benefit, insomuch that there is not an event in our lives, nor an incident in our experience, which may not furnish us with a theme of gratitude and a subject of praise. While we thank

thee for the bounties of thy providence, which thou art indiscriminately bestowing upon all, we supplicate those better and richer blessings which are the special marks of thy favor. We pray that, as we are fallen and guilty creatures, thou wouldst give us the blessedness of those to whom thou imputest no iniquity; that as we are polluted by sin, thou wouldst give us clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us; that as we are ignorant, thou wouldst teach us; and weak, thou wouldst uphold us, and give us that true and lively faith by which we shall be united to Christ, as the branch is united to the vine, and obtain the influences of his Holy Spirit to sanctify our nature, so that we may become thy children; may be conformed to thine image, observe thy laws, and serve thee in righteousness and holiness all the days of our lives. We thank thee for the mercies of the by-past night, and for the continuance to us of health of body and soundness of mind. When we mingle with the world, help us to exemplify those principles of love, and those sentiments of duty which, as thy people and the disciples of thy Son, we profess to entertain: to be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; and if thou art pleased to visit us with any trials, to support and comfort our minds with an unwavering faith in thy wise and holy providence, which presides over every event, and will direct all for thine own glory and the good of thy people. Bless this family. May all its members be members of the household of faith. Bless our brethren and kinsfolk according to the flesh. May all our friends be thy friends, and heirs of the kingdom which Christ has gone to prepare. Hear these our humble supplications, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MATTHEW XXVII.

O LORD, in presenting ourselves this evening at thy throne of grace, we acknowledge ourselves altogether unworthy of so inestimable a privilege and so distinguished an honor. We cannot look up to thee, much less expect any favor or blessing at thy hand, from any claims we have established on thy regard; and when we contemplate thy character, in all its majesty and holiness, or contrast ourselves with the purity of thy law, we have great reason to be dismayed at the recollection of those sins by which we have provoked thy displeasure, and alienated thee from us. It is only when we regard thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we have confidence in approaching thee. We rejoice that through him we can not only raise our hearts, and contemplate thy glorious majesty, without slavish fear, but entertain the hope of obtaining every necessary blessing, if we only ask them in the name of him who has merited them all by his death, and is now become our advocate with the Father, interceding that we may have them. Help us, then, to exercise a habitual and lively faith in his merits, to which we owe all the privileges we now enjoy, and all that we hope hereafter to

be ; in his death, by which he has made a full and satisfactory atonement for our sins ; and in his resurrection, which affords the strongest grounds for placing our hope on him, for that eternal inheritance which he has purchased for us by his blood, and for all things necessary to prepare and qualify us for it. And while we trust in his righteousness to justify us, and in his Spirit to sanctify us, may we ever live as the children of such unspeakable mercies, conforming ourselves in all respects to thy will, and to the perfect example of our divine Redeemer ; so that as he died on the cross, we may die unto sin, and as he rose again from the grave, we may rise to newness of life ; a life in which all the graces and virtues of his character may shine ; and may it be our daily study and aim to advance thy glory. Pardon wherever we may have come short of this end, during the day that is now ended. Accept of our united acknowledgments for the continuance of our temporal comforts and social enjoyments. Extend the shield of thy protection over us during the silent watches of the night. Give us such repose as may restore us, with renovated energy, to the duties of another day. And to thy name, through Christ, be everlasting praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—EXODUS III.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious Father ! Thou hast made another day to dawn upon us, and given us the comfortable prospect of the continuance of life and all the varied blessings by which it is sweetened. While we express in words our lively gratitude for that and every gift of thy bountiful providence, we pray that thou wouldst enable us to evince that gratitude by the cheerful obedience of our hearts and lives ; and, while thou art addressing us by every motive that can influence the human mind ; beseeching us by thy mercies, constraining us by thy love, alluring us by thy promises, and persuading us by thy terrors, may we yield thee that love and service which by the law both of nature and grace we are bound to give. Thou hast formed us with a capacity of loving and serving thee. But alas ! we have not loved and served thee as purely, and constantly, and supremely as we ought to have done. Though we may not have bowed the knee to graven images, or worshipped in the temple of those that by nature are no gods, we have often given our hearts and affections to other objects than to thee, and have thus violated the first precept of thy law, which requires us to have no other gods before thee. Pardon our sins both of omission and commission ; enable and dispose us henceforth to love thee with pure hearts fervently, for the divine excellencies of thy character, and for the manifold tokens of thy kindness, especially for thy kindness towards us in Christ Jesus, and from a firm and enlightened persuasion that thy service is the only reasonable, and free, and happy service ; to resolve that whatever others around us may do, as for us, we shall

serve the Lord. Confirm and establish us in this resolution ; and as we know from painful experience, that we are too apt to fall into sin in spite of what we know to be our interest and duty, we pray that thou wouldst strengthen us with all might by thy Spirit, in the inward man, and animate us by that faith which overcometh the world, the flesh and the devil, and which will keep us steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Prepare us for all that is before us in the course of this day ; amid all the scenes and duties to which we may be called, may we carry about with us a sense of thy presence, and of the relations in which we stand to thee, and be enabled to live to thy glory. In any trials which may be appointed to us, help us to manifest the spirit and temper of the disciples of Christ ; to endure as seeing thee who art invisible ; to have our affections crucified unto the world, and the world unto us ; and to pass through all its progressive stages as strangers and pilgrims who are seeking a better country, that is, a heavenly. Bless all whom we are bound by natural or Christian affection, to remember at thy throne of grace. Be a sun and shield unto them ; give them grace and glory, and withhold no good thing from them which thou knowest they need. Be gracious to every member of this family. Let thy presence go with us wherever we go, and thy blessing rest on us wherever we dwell, all which we ask and hope to receive through Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MARK I.

O LORD, we would repair this evening to thy throne of grace, to pay thee the worship and homage which it is thy sole prerogative to receive. Thou art entitled to this tribute from us, as well from thy glorious majesty, as thine unwearied goodness to us ; and this day which has now closed has added one more to the innumerable claims thou hast to our gratitude and love ; for the comforts and blessings thy parental care has bestowed on us, ever since we had a being, where shall we begin, or where shall we end, if we attempt to enumerate the praises of the Lord ! Though we should speak with the tongue of men and of angels, yet where could we find terms in which we could adequately express the riches of thy favor ? Even eternity itself would be too brief a span to utter abundantly the memory of thy great goodness. We would especially at this time, express our liveliest thanksgiving for the blessings of that great salvation which thy Son and our Saviour hath procured for us. O may thy Spirit be given to us, whose province it is to take of the things of Christ, and show them to our souls, that he may lead us to repose unwavering confidence in the author and finisher of our faith ; inspire us with gratitude for his generous and divine love in giving himself for us ; and convince us, from experience, that there is no sin, however deep its lye, which he is not able to remove ; no fear, however de-

sponding, which he cannot dispel, and no spiritual malady, however inveterate, for which he has not an adequate remedy. Thus let us become partakers of that peace and joy which flow from believing; and realize the blessedness of that man whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered, and to whom thou imputest no iniquity. May we deem the past part of our life as more than sufficient to have wrought the will of the flesh; and may it henceforth be our daily prayer, and the constant aim and endeavor of our lives, to be growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour; to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, that thus we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, and show forth the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To thee, who never slumberest nor sleepest, we commit our bodies and souls this night. Let thy blessing and protection be extended to all in whom we are interested, and let our persons and services meet with acceptance, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—EXODUS IV.

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel, who hath visited us in our house of bondage, and hath remembered us in our low and lost estate. When we had forsaken thy law and disregarded thy commandments, when we had broken thy covenant and forfeited all claim to eternal life, when we were sunk in sin, in misery, and in death, when we were utterly helpless, when sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, thou didst so love the world, as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, might not perish but have everlasting life. What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits? Alas, O Lord, what have we rendered? We bow before thee in the dust. God be merciful unto us sinners. Measure not thy mercy by our merits, but look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief. Enable us to give to every one that asketh us, a reason for the hope that is in us; and may our faith, founded on the evidences which thou hast set before us, and ingrafted in our souls by thy Spirit, purify our hearts and overcome the temptations of the world. Let not our perverseness and ingratitude provoke thee to abandon us to our own devices. Cast us not away from thy presence. Take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Be thou the guide of all our actions, and our protector in all our dangers. So conduct and support us amidst all the changes and varieties of this uncertain state, that no prosperity may make us forget thee who art the author of it, and no adversity may make us murmur against thy goodness. May no prospect of worldly advantage, nor any dread of worldly loss, ever lead us to swerve from thy holy commandments; but may our conversation in all things be such as becometh the gospel. Teach us

so to watch over our ways, that temptation may never be able to surprise us, and enable us so to control our passions and affections, that they may never obtain the dominion over us. May we live in thy fear that we may die in thy favor; that when the dust shall return to the earth as it was, the spirit may return unto God who gave it. All that we ask is for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MARK II.

ALMIGHTY God, in thy favor and love were our first parents created, and dwelt in the ever-present light of thy countenance. But man being in honor and happiness did not abide. By the disobedience of one, have many been made sinners, and death and misery have passed upon all men, because all have sinned. But as thou saidst in the beginning, Let there be light, and there was light; so hast thou caused the Sun of righteousness to arise, and enlighten and restore a dark and a ruined world. Although thou art unchangeable in thy nature, and irreconcilable to iniquity, in thine unsearchable wisdom and unbounded goodness, thou hast devised a method so great and so glorious, that even the angels desire to look into it, whereby mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other; whereby thou art just, and yet the justifier of all who believe. Thou hast reconciled a guilty world unto thyself, by the blood of thine only-begotten and eternal Son; who, having by one offering perfected forever them that are sanctified, returned to his original glory, our all-prevailing intercessor, as he shall be our final judge. Surely he shall guide his flock like a shepherd; his grace is sufficient for all who put their trust in him. He will not suffer us to be tempted above what we are able to bear; but will, with the temptation, make also a way to escape. In the depths of sorrow, degradation, and sin, and in the region and shadow of death, we have heard the glad tidings of salvation; and his invitation to all who are weary and heavy-laden is, Come unto me, and I will give you rest. God forbid that it should be our condemnation, that light hath come into the world, and that we have loved darkness rather than the light, because our deeds are evil. Being justified by faith, may we have peace with thee our God, through our Lord and Saviour; and as we have named the name of Christ, may we be enabled by thy grace to depart from iniquity. Teach us to regard ourselves as no longer our own, but bought with a price; and ever to keep in remembrance, that thou hast appointed a day, in which thou wilt judge the world in righteousness, when every work shall be brought into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Sanctify to our spiritual improvement, all the ordinances of thine appointment, and may the happy influence of a due attention to the means of grace, appear in the peaceable fruits of holiness and in-

tegrity. Keep us and ours this night, and forever, under the shadow of thine Almighty wings, and grant an answer in peace to all our requests, for the sake of our Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—EXODUS V.

FOREVER praised and adored be that goodness which hath not, long ere now, cut us off in the midst of our sins, and consigned us to that dismal abode where God hath forgotten to be gracious, but which even now is inviting us, in the gospel of reconciliation, to return to the paths of holiness and peace. O Lord, may thy Holy Spirit prepare our hearts to receive with meekness the ingrafted word, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation. In that fountain which thou hast opened to the house of David, do thou wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps; do thou, O Lord, who seest the end from the beginning, lead us in the way everlasting. As strangers and pilgrims upon earth, may our conversation be in heaven. There may our treasure be; there may our hearts be also. We commit our ways unto thee, do thou bring them to pass in righteousness, and by whatever means may seem good unto thee, keep us from falling, and at last present us faultless before the presence of thy glory, with exceeding joy. Deny us what blessings thou wilt, but deny us not life eternal. We desire to submit with supreme resignation to whatever afflictions thou, in thine infinite wisdom and goodness, mayest see to be necessary for our salvation, and we leave all our concerns, with perfect confidence, to thy disposal, sensible that thou, who sparedst not thine own Son, but didst deliver him up to death for us all, wilt, with him, also freely give us all things. Withdraw our affections more and more from the things of time. Convinced of the uncertainty of every earthly blessing, seeing that we have nothing in this life which we can truly call our own; that our friends are constantly disappearing from around us; that the objects of our wishes are daily vanishing from before our eyes, we pray, almighty God, that thou wilt enable us to fix our desires on hopes which shall not be disappointed, on joys which are beyond the reach of alloy or uncertainty. Extend, we beseech thee, to the whole human race the same blessings which we have solicited for ourselves. We entreat thee, in an especial manner, in behalf of our own friends and relations. Convert the unconverted here and throughout the world; arouse secure and careless sinners, and build up saints more and more in their most holy faith. And all things that are expedient for ourselves and for others, both for time and for eternity, we beg of thee, our heavenly Father, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MARK III.

ALMIGHTY God, we would approach thy footstool in the name of Christ, for we feel that on thy mercy and the merits of our Saviour must all our hopes depend. We throw ourselves on thy unbounded goodness. We acknowledge our need of a Redeemer. We look up from the depths of sin and of misery to thy throne of grace. We tremble when we anticipate thy righteous tribunal. Gracious God, in judgment remember mercy. We have no merit of our own to plead before thee; may the righteousness of Christ be imputed unto us. We have no sacrifice to offer unto thee; may the sufferings of our Saviour be accepted as the price of our salvation. God forbid that we should do despite unto the Spirit of thy grace, but may the Holy Ghost reign in our hearts, renew our natures, sanctify our lives, enable us to obey thy commandments, and seal our souls to the day of redemption. May our experience of the sad consequences of sin, of the utter disproportion between its transitory and uncertain rewards, and its lasting and certain punishments, lead us in future, with undeviating consistency, to follow after that godliness which hath the promise of the life that now is, as well as of that which is to come. May past errors lead us to distrust ourselves; may we think upon our former ways, and make it our constant prayer that our sufficiency may be of thee, the Lord. Enable us to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time. Seeing that there is no work nor device in the grave, whither we are all hastening, may we not be slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving thee, our God. May we walk in the ways of the righteous, that our latter end may be like his; that the king of terrors may to us be a messenger of peace; that the night of death may be but the dawn of an eternal morn, and the grave but the entrance to a better world, where we shall be before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. Enable us to perform aright, in our respective stations, our duty to our brethren of mankind. Our hearts' desire and prayer unto thee, in their behalf, is that they may be saved. We commend especially to thy mercy and saving kindness, those who are near and dear to us. Do for them exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think; and, none found wanting, may we all meet at last in the kingdom of heaven, and be forever with the Lord. We offer up all our petitions in the name of him who hath taught us thus to address thee, Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.—EXODUS VII.

O ALMIGHTY God, Lord of heaven and earth, we acknowledge thy glorious sovereignty. We own thy power, wisdom, justice, and holiness. We confess that we are nothing, that we know nothing,

and can do nothing; and yet we have rebelled against thee. We lift up our hearts against thee, the most high God, and too often shut our eyes to the manifest displays of thy presence, perfections, and agency. We have too often refused to acknowledge thine authority, and hardened our necks against God. O how wondrous thy long-suffering. How great thy forbearance with the impiety and high-mindedness of the worms of the dust. But thou wilt not always strive. Thou wilt not always be mocked. Thou wilt cause thyself to be known by the judgments which thou wilt execute against the proud and the rebellious. We are by nature such. But, O Lord, deal not with us as we have sinned. Thou hast not yet done so, but hast remembered mercy for us. Thou hast had compassion on us; thou hast found out a ransom, a glorious remedy for our condition. Thou hast not sent thy Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Lord, let us not receive the grace of God in vain. Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief. Bring us by thine almighty Spirit into subjection to the obedience of Christ. Teach us simple submission to thy will. Save us from distrust. When thou commandest may we obey in the strength of the Lord. Help us to wait with patience thy time, and to follow the leadings of thy providence, as thou knowest the end from the beginning, and we are but of yesterday, and know nothing. Preserve us from all hardness of heart and resistance to thy commands, or to the truth of thy word. Lead us in a plain path, and guide us by thy word and Spirit in the way everlasting. We adore thee alike in thy sovereignty and in thy wondrous condescension to our condition; the unspeakably tender grace that, knowing our frame, remembers that we are dust, and has provided a Saviour who, while Christ the Lord, is yet of the seed of Abraham, bone of our bone, and thus a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God. To thee, then, we come in his name. O grant us mercy to pardon, and grace to help. As our day is, let, we beseech thee, our strength be. Help us to serve and glorify thee. Supply us with water out of the wells of salvation. Carry us on from strength to strength. Bring us at last perfect before thee in the New Jerusalem. Satisfy us early with thy goodness. Accept of thanksgiving for all past mercies, which we cannot number. This day, which in mercy thou hast brought us to see, surrounded with benefits, be our shield and buckler. Save and help all who are near and dear to us. Keep them and lift them up forever. Have pity on the distressed. Have mercy upon Zion. O compassionate sinners. Let them be converted unto thee through all the earth. Take unto thee thy great power and reign. Hear, O Father of mercies, these our prayers, for the sake of him who is our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MARK IV. 1-20.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we adore thee as the God of our salvation, and in the name of him whom thou hearest always, and in whom thou art always well pleased, do we give thee most humble and hearty thanks, that when darkness had covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, thou didst send forth thy word to lighten them, and great hath been the company of them that published it, that holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, and in the last days thou didst speak to men by thy Son from heaven. We rejoice that the day-star from on high hath visited us, that Jesus Christ, the Sun of righteousness, has arisen with healing under his wings, and that now the light shineth to us who were in darkness, and in the region and shadow of death. O Lord God of hosts, our covenant God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, shine, we beseech thee, into our hearts, to give us the light of his glorious gospel. Reveal thy Son himself in us. Remove the veil that covers our spiritual sight. Grant us, for this end, the Spirit of the Lord, that we may have liberty, and beholding, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, may be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord. Quicken us by thy word, and we will call upon thy name. Sanctify us by thy truth; thy word is truth. O let it not be to us either as water spilt upon the ground, that cannot be gathered up again, or as seed sown on a hard, neglected, unfruitful soil, which bringeth forth no fruit to perfection, and is speedily carried away or destroyed. O let it not be to our condemnation that light hath come into the world, and that we have loved darkness rather than light, because our deeds were evil. Let us not harden our hearts and provoke the Lord to give us over to strong delusion, so as that we should either reject or disobey thy truth, hold it in unrighteousness, or believe a lie; for no lie is of the truth, or can sanctify or save our souls. Help us to remember the words of him who came in thy name to save us, and gave himself for us, Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. Revive and quicken us. O thou who hast promised to pour water on him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground, be as the dew unto Israel, that we may grow in thy service as the lily, and cast forth our roots as Lebanon, that our branches of righteousness may spread, and our branches of holiness may be as the olive-tree, and the odor of our good name as Lebanon. May we revive as the corn and grow as the vine. For this purpose may we abide in Christ, without whom we can do nothing; and as we have received so let us walk in him. Let thy statutes be our songs in the house of our pilgrimage. Lead us in the way of thy testimonies, that our footsteps may not slide; and though it may be through a way that we have not known, bring us, we pray thee, to the city of habitation. We thank thee for the mercies of this week. They have been many and precious. Bless

to us its trials; forgive its sins, which are great. Wash them away in that blood which cleanseth from all sin. Prepare and solemnize our minds for the duties of the approaching sabbath. If spared in thy mercy to enter upon them, may we rise refreshed with needful rest, animated with gratitude, in the gladness of thy nation, and prepared to spend in the Spirit the Lord's day. Be gracious, O God, to all who are near and dear to us. Let the name of the God of Jacob defend them, and let him that dwelt in the bush, the angel Jehovah, who redeems his servants from all evil, and hath fed and led them all their life long in all generations, be with them to keep them in all their ways, and to preserve them to the day of redemption. Let thy name be known throughout all the earth, and thy saving health to all nations. Bless and preserve thy servants who go forth in the Spirit of Christ to seek the lost. Sustain their souls. Give them souls for their hire. Bless thy Zion, even the whole Israel of God. Comfort the afflicted. Give the peace of thy chosen to mourners in Zion. Be our God even unto death, and at last our exceeding great reward. Into thy hands we commend ourselves, and all in whom we are interested, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eighth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS XXVI. XXVII.

LORD, how lovely is thy dwelling-place, how amiable are the tabernacles of thy grace, how blessed is the man whom thou chooseth and makest to approach unto thee. While we give thee glory for all thy fatherly care and providential goodness, while we praise thee for Jesus Christ, thine unspeakable gift, and for all the benefits of the Redeemer's purchase, we would gratefully remember the provision which thou hast made for our spiritual improvement. Let thy blessing be upon the exercises of this day. May we ever account a day spent in thy courts, better than a thousand wasted in the tents of sin. Enable us to engage in the public duties of this day, refreshed by thy presence, by a recollection of our recent intercourse with thee, and in humble confidence of thy favor and blessing, through our all-sufficient and ever-gracious Saviour. We know not what changes, and trials, and afflictions, are reserved for us in thy unerring wisdom. We desire to commit ourselves without reserve to thy wise and righteous disposal, believing that thou knowest what is good for us, better than we possibly can; and assured that thou makest all things work together for good, to those who are truly thine. We pray that thou, in thy providence, mayest be

pleased to spare us those temptations which may be too ensnaring for our watchfulness, or too powerful for our resistance. We pray that when we are tempted, thou mayest be at hand to support and deliver us, to make thy grace sufficient for us, and perfect thy strength in our weakness. And we beseech thee, that in all our ways we may be enabled to acknowledge thee, and that our paths may be directed by thy unerring wisdom. We bless thee, that we have been preserved from evil during the shade of the night now passed; and raised up to the light and the duties of a new day. O be thou graciously pleased to guide us in our going out and our coming in, to deliver us from all evil, and to sanctify all that we do, or that may befall us, day by day, to the praise of thy holy name. Hear, O Lord, and when thou hearest, forgive the imperfection of all our services, and accept of them and of us, in Christ, our only Mediator. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS XXVIII. XXIX.

THOU, O Lord, art a God of knowledge, and by thee actions are weighed. No darkness nor shadow of death can conceal from thee any of the works which thou hast made, neither is there any creature that is not manifest in thy sight. To thee are known all the wanderings of our hearts, the idleness of our speech, the sinfulness of our lives. O do thou enable us to look on our thoughts, words, and actions, as tried by the infallible test of thy unerring law. Give us to discern how perverse have been our thoughts, how vain our conversation, how worthless our conduct, how hopeless our state, wert thou to enter with us into judgment. Lead us to that Saviour in whom thou reconcilest sinners to thyself, to that blood of sprinkling which speaketh better things than that of Abel; and fill our hearts with that bitter compunction, that godly sorrow, that humility and contrition, which thou hast declared that in him thou wilt not despise. While it is thy pleasure that we yet tabernacle on earth, we know that we must encounter many trials and temptations. Do thou graciously support and strengthen us under them. Let no danger intimidate, no pleasure allure us into forgetfulness of our God. Save us from being cast down by the evil reports of erring men, or elated by the flattery of human applause, or misled by the fashion of the world, to follow the multitude in doing evil. And let the means of grace which thou hast appointed, be sanctified for our benefit, that we may walk in our integrity, and bless the Lord in the congregation of his people. We would especially acknowledge, with fervent gratitude, the high privilege of a day set apart for thy peculiar service, the blessed rest of thy holy sabbath, the solemn and stated call to withdraw our thoughts from the engrossing cares and pursuits of a transitory world, and the opportunity this day afforded us of meeting our brethren in the Lord, and uniting our hearts and

voices in praise, and thanksgiving, and prayer to him who is the Father and the Maker of us all. O may our services ever find acceptance with thee in Christ Jesus. May the preaching of thy word be blessed of thee as the means of enlightening, comforting, and establishing our hearts in thy truth. May our fellowship in thy public worship unite our hearts in brotherly love; and may our earthly sabbaths be indeed an earnest of that eternal sabbath, where thy servants, assembled before thy throne, shall praise thee forever and ever. We pray, O Lord, that the blessings of divine truth may be diffused more and more over the face of the earth; that thou mayest prosper the efforts of those who labor according to thy mind and will in this great cause; and that the multitudes of our fellow mortals, who yet lie in spiritual darkness, may have the cloud now encompassing them dispelled by the glorious light of the everlasting gospel. We desire to pour forth our thanksgivings for all the unmerited blessings, spiritual and temporal, which we have this day experienced. We beseech thee to continue to us thy gracious care and inexhaustible bounty, that so we may repose in peace under the shadow of thy almighty wings; may receive, day by day, our daily bread, and be kept by thy mighty power, through faith unto salvation, in Christ our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—EXODUS VIII.

ALMIGHTY God, thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Who hath an arm like unto thee, or who can thunder with a voice like thine. Impress on our hearts a deep sense of thy glorious majesty, of our own weakness and unworthiness, that we may stand in awe before thee; and, trembling at thy word, flee for refuge to the hope which is set before us in Christ Jesus, our all-sufficient Saviour. Let not our hearts be hardened, nor our eyelids lifted up, but every thought within us be subdued to the obedience of Christ. Thou commandest the morning, and causest the day-spring to know his place; thou sendest man forth to his labor, and givest him, refreshed and protected, the means of procuring his daily bread. Enable us and all around us to profit by our opportunities. What our hand findeth to do, may we do it with all our might. This day, may thy good providence preserve our bodies from danger, and thy grace keep our souls from sin, and to thee be the glory in Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MARK IV. 21-41.

MOST merciful Father, how precious is thy grace! how unwearied thy loving-kindness! thou hast added another day to our lives, and

brought us to its close in peace and comfort. O may each day be marked by steadier faith in a Redeemer, by increasing watchfulness against temptation, by unwearied diligence in the duty which thou requirest, by more ardent zeal for thy glory, and by a more affectionate concern for the welfare of our brethren! Forbid that there be in us an evil heart of unbelief, to depart from the living God. Suffer us not to be a prey to spiritual delusion or self-conceit, but enable us to have our conversation in simplicity and godly sincerity, as in thy sight. Teach us to walk in love, as Christ who loved us, and to show that we are his disciples by having love one to another. Take us this night under thy gracious protection. Let no evil come nigh our dwelling. May our rest prove refreshing, and our awaking be with the Lord. And may the remainder of our sojourning here be devoted to thy service, through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—EXODUS IX.

O LORD God of Israel, who didst perform wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, to make unto thyself a glorious name, and who leddest forth thy people out of that house of bondage, overthrowing their enemies in the Red sea, may thy name be blessed forever. As thou didst promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, so didst thou perform unto their children, for all thy promises are yea and amen. O Lord, we rejoice that out of the Egypt of this sinful world thou hast redeemed thy church, the spiritual Israel, not without wonders and miracles of grace, destroying the power of sin and of death, and giving them the victory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and liberty to serve the Lord even in the wilderness of this mortal life. O God, who hath kept us to see the light of another day, accept our grateful thanks and praises. May the devil be this day bruised under our feet. May we walk in the Spirit, not fulfilling the deeds of the flesh. And when we see thy hand stretched out to punish them that proudly oppose thee, may we not be high-minded, but fear. O God, deliver us from 'hardness of heart,' from a 'scared conscience,' from blindness of mind. Shine thou into our hearts, giving us the knowledge of thyself in the face of Christ. May we dwell in Goshen, being separated from the world in its pride and unbelief, and separated also from its plagues and miseries. O may we be redeemed from all iniquity, from our vain conversation, from the power of this present world, and may we live under the powers of the world to come. Sanctify us wholly, in spirit, soul, and body. We pray for all men. Bless and enlarge thy church. Be the God of our friends. Reward our benefactors. Forgive our enemies, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MARK V. 1-25.

O GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast sent thy dear Son into the world, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have eternal life, may we repent and believe the good news of salvation which he brings, and may we be baptized with the Holy Ghost. We are blind, weak, and corrupt, may the Spirit of Jesus Christ enlighten our understandings in the knowledge of him our Saviour. Strengthen us with all strength, in the inner man; purify us from all our corruptions, and work in us mightily to do thy holy will. Forgive us all our sins through Jesus Christ, our great high priest, and may we know that our sins are pardoned, for his name's sake. And, O God, enable us to leave all and follow Christ. May we not question, but obey thy will, meekly submitting ourselves to thy gracious and righteous disposal. Lord, sustain us under all trials; purify us by the afflictions thou sendest, and may our faith come out as the fine gold from the furnace. O Lord, may thy kingdom come; may thy will be done by us, as it is done by angels in heaven. May we be kept by them, through faith to salvation. The Lord perfect that which concerneth us. Send forth thy light and truth to every land. Let thy praise be spoken by every tongue; let every knee bow to thee. And to thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be endless praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—EXODUS X. XI.

FATHER of lights, with whom is no variableness or the least shadow of turning! from thee cometh down every good and every perfect gift. We bless thee that thou hast not left us to sleep the sleep of death; that the darkness of Egypt has not fallen around our dwelling, that we are again permitted to see the light of a new day; and that our habitation has not been swept away by the hail and the tempest of thy wrath. Thou art the great guardian of our sleeping hours, and thou makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice over us. Gracious Father! grant us in thy great mercy the tokens of thy favor. Speak not to us in thy wrath; visit us not in thy sore displeasure. May our sins be washed away in the blood of atonement. May we have a personal interest in the great salvation; and may the peace of God, which passeth understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Give us not over to the hardness of our own hearts. May we not stifle the voice of conscience, nor disregard the warnings of thy Spirit. May we guard against the deadening and destructive influence of evil passions, and of a worldly spirit. May we give more earnest heed to the sure

word of prophecy, till the day dawn, and the day-star arise in our hearts. May our habitation be the dwelling of peace, and may the light of heaven ever shine upon it. May he who commanded the light to shine out of darkness shine into our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ. And may our family be blest of the Lord, as one of the families of Israel; and may our friends ever enjoy thy protection and favor. Keep us this day from all evil, and fit us for every duty. May we be in thy fear at all times, and may it be our firm determination to serve thee with our whole hearts. May we never attempt to obey two masters, whose interests are at utter variance with each other. May we have a single eye to thy glory. May we go through the wilderness of this world, leaning on Jesus as the beloved of our souls; and when flesh and heart faint and fail, be thou the strength of our heart and our portion forever. Our Father which art in heaven; hallowed be thy name, &c. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MARK v. 25—43.

O LORD! we bless thee for health of body and for soundness of mind. While many of our brethren around us are stretched on beds of pain, or have been long confined to the chamber of sickness, thou hast removed disease far from our dwelling-place, and hast graciously supplied our every want. Give us grace to be thankful, and may we diligently improve all the mercies which mingle in our lot. And O! put us not off with temporal comforts. Feed our souls with the bread of life. Heal our spiritual maladies. We recognize in Christ, thy well-beloved Son, a physician of infinite value; and, laboring under the disease of sin, we would appeal to him in faith for the balm of Gilead which faileth not. May we by a living faith draw near to him, and obtain health to our souls. And may we consecrate all our powers, and all our opportunities, to his service and glory. We rejoice in Christ Jesus as the living one, and as the author of life to the dead. We bless thee that he gave his life a ransom for many, and that he rose again triumphant from the grave. As he lives, may we live also. May the quickening energy of his Holy Spirit awaken us from spiritual death, and may we walk with him in newness of life. May each day, as it passeth along, witness our progressive advancement in the way to heaven. May we grow in humility, in self-denial, in heavenliness of mind, in love to one another, and the whole household of faith. Establish thy covenant with each one of us. Guide us by thy counsel, and afterwards receive us through glory. We thank thee for thy preserving care of us this day; and we would rear our memorial of gratitude before thee, and say, 'thus far the Lord hath helped us.' Blot out the sins of this day, and of all our days, in the blood of atonement; and graciously remove every ground of controversy betwixt ourselves and

thee. We would lie down in peace and take quiet rest; knowing that thou, O Lord, makest us to dwell in safety. Hear our prayers, and give us an answer in peace, for our great Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XII.

WHEREWITHAL shall we come before thee, O Lord, and bow ourselves before the most high God! We bless thee that thou hast left us in no fearful uncertainty regarding the ground of our acceptance, or the way of access to thy heavenly throne. Thou hast revealed thyself as the God of all mercy; and thou hast assured us that the blood of Jesus Christ, thine own Son, cleanseth from all sin. We would come before thee, in the name of him whom thou hast set forth to be a propitiation for our sins, and who ever lives to make intercession. May his peace speaking-blood be sprinkled on our guilty consciences; and being justified by faith, may we have peace with thee, and rejoice in hope of thy glory. May we mourn with genuine contrition on account of sin; and habitually cherish the godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of. Give us those supplies of grace and of spiritual strength that are suited to our necessities, and which thou hast promised to bestow. Quicken us for duty and for trial. May we have our loins girt and our lamps burning; and may we be as men that wait for the coming of their Lord. Almighty Father, may a sense of thy great goodness to us, to our family, to our friends, to our land, to our church, ever remain with us; and may those seasons of great deliverance and of great mercy, which 'are much to be remembered' by us, make on our hearts, in the review of them, a deep, and salutary, and lasting impression. We bless thee for thy wonders to Israel, and for thy gracious interpositions in behalf of the church in its later times. May thy hand and thy power appear unto us as to thy people of old. Build up Zion, even in troublous times; and may thy name be great, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. We cast our cares upon thee; thou carest for us. Family sins do thou, our Father, forgive; and accept of our fervent thanks for family mercies. Keep us, this day, in thy fear and favor. Fit us for all that is before us; and when the days of the years of our pilgrimage are ended, may an abundant entrance be administered to us into thy kingdom and glory, for the great Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MARK VI. 1-29.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God almighty! how shall we, guilty and polluted creatures, venture into thy presence, and take thy name

into our polluted lips. Behold us, not as we are in ourselves, but in Christ Jesus, thy well-beloved Son, who died for us, and who rose again. We mourn over that unbelief and hardness of heart which keep us at a distance from the Saviour, and prevent us from realizing his glorious grace. O may the prejudices of the carnal mind be removed, and may we enjoy the blessedness of those who are not offended in Christ. May we live by faith in and on him. May the mighty work of grace be begun, and carried on, and completed in us by the gracious working of his power; and may we abound in all those fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the praise and glory of thy great name. We thank thee that the message of salvation was sent to our world and to our land; and we pray that the light which now shines around us may shine also into our hearts. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give unto us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, that the eyes of our understanding being enlightened, we may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to them who believe. May Satan be seen falling as lightning from heaven, and may Christ Jesus be magnified in us, whether it be by life or by death. May the gospel of thy grace have free course and run and be glorified. Send the knowledge of salvation to the heathen; to the victims of Mahometan and antichristian delusion; and to our own countrymen in other lands, who are destitute of the means of grace. Revive thy work in the midst of the years. Give testimony to the word of thy grace, at home and abroad; and grant that the time may soon come when Messiah, the prince, shall take to him his great power, and reign over every land. Heavenly Father, we commend us to thee during the silent watches of the night. May our sleep be refreshing. May our dreams be devout, and may our waking thoughts be of thee. Go with us on the journey of life. May our path be as the morning light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. May we press on to higher and higher attainments, and gain daily victories over the world and our own hearts. May our last days be our best days. May our closing hours be our brightest hours. At evening-tide may there be light. Keep us as the apple of thine eye; and bring us to thy heavenly kingdom, for the Lord the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XIII.

FATHER Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and sea, and all things therein, we would humbly approach thee with the sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise for the mercies of the past night, and the manifold comforts of this morning. Shepherd of Israel, thou watchest over us and ours, with an eye that never slumbers and never

sleeps. Thou art our sun by day and our shield by night. Thou leadest us in green pastures, and beside the still waters. We feel that thou art drawing us to thyself by the cords of love; that thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. May thine ineffable goodness prevail with us to forsake every idol, and to present unto thee our souls and our bodies a living sacrifice. God of our fathers, and our God, we thank thee for all the manifestations of thy paternal kindness and regard to this revolted world. Especially we bless thee for the revelation of thy glorious grace and righteousness in the face of Jesus Christ. We rejoice that Messiah hath come, and put away sin by the once offering up of himself; and that there is now no condemnation to them who being united to him, walk no longer after the flesh, but after the Spirit. May he be made unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption. And enable us to give ourselves to him in an everlasting covenant: through his grace may we be crucified unto the world, and the world unto us: and setting him always before us as our Redeemer, pattern, and guide, may we be transformed into his image, and so made meet for the inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. God of peace, blot out the multitude of our iniquities; accept of us and our imperfect services in the Beloved; and grant for his sake, that goodness and mercy may follow us all the days of our lives, and that we, and all who are dear to us, may dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MARK VI. 30-56.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens. What is man that thou art mindful of him? Give us at all times to feel how weak, how dependent, how sinful we are; and let a double portion of the spirit of humility be poured out upon our hearts when we thus come before thee with the voice of supplication and prayer. Holy Father, thou hast mercifully preserved and guided us to the close of another day, and permitted us again, gathered round the family altar, to confess our sins, to adore thy majesty, and show forth thy praise in a song of Zion. Help us, we entreat thee, to trace all our comforts, temporal and spiritual, to the inexhaustible and eternal fountain of thy grace in Christ Jesus. Forbid that the very multitude and abundance of thy gifts should ever lead any of us to forget thyself, the author and dispenser of all good; or our own utter unworthiness of the least of thy mercies. Grant rather that the thought may be constantly and affectingly present to our minds, that it is in thee we live, and move, and have our being: and that thou hast therefore an infinite right, not merely to the humble acknowledgments of our lips, but to the cordial and devoted obedience of our lives. And

amidst all the manifestations of thy unmeasured favor, help us ever duly to distinguish thine unspeakable gift. God of mercy thou hast not spared thine own Son, but delivered him up for us all. Glory be to thy name for all that he did, and suffered, and procured for sinners. We bless thee for the heavenly truths he revealed, for the holy precepts he enjoined and exemplified, and for the stupendous works of compassion and benevolence by which he was invincibly declared to be the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. We pray that his name may be adored, and his saving health proclaimed, from the rising to the setting sun. And O may it be given unto each of us to eat of his flesh, and drink of his blood, that we may have eternal life. May the chastisement of our peace come upon him, and by his stripes may we be healed. May the law of the spirit of life which is in him, make us free from the law of sin and death. Out of his fulness may we continually receive grace according to our varying necessities, and be all conducted by his power to the everlasting rest that remaineth for his people. Holy Father, through the intercession of our great high-priest we desire to look for a gracious answer to our evening prayer; and entreat thee to protect us from all evil during the watches of the night, and to raise us up in health and comfort on the morning of a new day, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XIV.

GREAT and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou king of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy? To whom can we go but unto thee; thou hast the words of eternal life. Speak peace unto us, the sheep of thy pasture, this morning, and let thy hand be upon us for good throughout the day. Bless to our souls, we pray thee, that portion of thy holy word which we have now read. Make it quick and powerful; a discerner of the thoughts and intents of our hearts. As thou knowest we severally require, render it profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness. O Lord, may we learn to tremble lest the latter end of the wicked should be ours. Try us, O God, and cause us to know ourselves. Keep back thy servants from all presumptuous sins. Inspire us, we earnestly beseech thee, with that godly fear which is the beginning of wisdom. Forbid that having so often made light of the terrors of thy justice, we should also be found guilty of rejecting the overtures of thy grace. Forbid that thy long-suffering patience should only aggravate our final condemnation and ruin. O let none of us love the darkness rather than the light, because our deeds are evil. Enable us solemnly to bear in mind that the wages of sin is death, and that we know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh. Suffer us, there-

fore, no longer to despise the remonstrances of conscience or the warning voices of thy providence. Suffer us no longer to grieve and quench the Holy Spirit, no longer to neglect or to trifle with the great salvation. O Lord, without thee we can do nothing. Make us a willing people in the day of thy power. Give unto us, on the behalf of Christ, to believe on his name; and do thou, for his sake, sprinkle our hearts from an evil conscience; work in us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure, and enable us henceforth to walk in all the ordinances and commandments of thy law blameless. God of our righteousness, turn not away our prayers from thee, nor thy mercy from us. And hasten, we entreat thee, the time when all the ends of the earth and all the islands of the sea shall share with us the privileges and the blessings of the gospel of peace. And unto thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be all the honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MARK VII.

FATHER of the spirits of all flesh, with the deepest reverence and self-abasement we desire again to prostrate our souls at the footstool of thy throne of grace. Thou art the high and holy One, who inhabiteth eternity and the praises thereof. We are sinful dust and ashes. Our hearts are by nature deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, and we are chargeable in thy sight, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, with innumerable acts of delinquency and rebellion. If thou shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who shall stand? But with thee there is mercy and plenteous redemption for the chief of sinners. Be merciful to us that we perish not. Enable us to repent, and embrace with the whole heart the gospel message of reconciliation. Give us right perceptions of the extent, the spirituality, and immutable obligations of thy holy law; and pour upon our hearts the spirit of conviction and contrition, that we may look upon him whom our sins have pierced, and mourn as one mourneth for an only son. But while we lament the guilty cause, let us be filled with exceeding joy, through the blessed effects of his humiliation and obedience unto death, even the death of the cross. Precious to our weary heavy laden souls is the assurance that the blood of thy Son cleanseth us from all sin. For his sake hide thy face from our transgressions, and remember them no more forever. And vouchsafe to us also, we do earnestly pray, deliverance from the bondage of corruption. Baptize us with the Holy Ghost as with fire. Sanctify us wholly in soul, and body, and spirit. Enable us to delight in thy law after the inner man, and make us altogether such as thou wouldst have us to be. Holy Father, we desire to intercede with thee on behalf of our beloved relatives and friends. With us may they be washed in the fountain opened in the house of Israel, and created again in Christ Jesus unto good works; and when all our

wanderings and trials in this land of strangers and pilgrims are ended, may we have a joyful meeting in the light and purity of his heavenly kingdom. Gracious God, forgive, we entreat thee, the sins of the day, and the week now past, and surround us by thy favor during the hours of repose. Grant also that we may be duly prepared for the solemn and delightful services of the approaching sabbath. And do thou strengthen the hands of every faithful minister, and bless all the assemblies of thy saints, and let thy word have free course and be glorified in all the regions of the earth. And unto thee, with the Son and the blessed Spirit, shall be ascribed the glory, as it was in the beginning, now is, and ever shall be. Amen.

Ninth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM xxx.

O LORD our God, who art over all, God blessed for evermore, unto whom shall we go but unto thee, for thou alone art worthy to receive all homage, and thou hast in thyself the words of eternal life. Thou art the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. Thou art the supreme governor among all the nations of men. Thou art the unfailing refuge of all them who place their trust in thy ever holy and all-excellent name. On this, the morning of thy hallowed day, we will then praise thee for the glory of thy majesty, and we will join together in acknowledging the greatness of thy mercy. For verily thou art a great God, and a great King above all gods. Thou hast in thy hands the depths of the earth, and also the strength of the everlasting hills. Thou art also good and gracious. In thee all thy creatures live, and move, and have their being. Thou didst at first create us out of nothing, breathe into us the breath of life, and make us living, and rational, and immortal spirits. Thou still sustainest us upon the earth. Thy goodness is new to us every morning, and thy faithfulness every evening. How great is the loving-kindness of the Lord! And all this is highly enhanced, when we call to mind our own unworthiness. What is man that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man that thou deignest to visit him? Not only have we sinned against God, in times and ways unnumbered. Not only have we, by a thousand iniquities, deserved thy righteous displeasure; but, notwithstanding all the bounties enjoyed by, and all the privileges conferred upon us, we are ever, by reason of hearts naturally depraved, and by reason of unbelief, ready to depart from thy ways, and scorn the paths of thy commandments. It is our encouragement, however, to know that there

is mercy with thee, that thou mayest be feared. O then, for the sake of thy Son who died for sinners, and who rose again, who is even at thy right hand, and whom thou hearest always, lift on us the light of thy countenance and love us freely. O do not remember our sins against us, but mercifully blot them all from the book of thy remembrance. Thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, thou hast no delight in the punishment of the rebellious. Thou knowest that there is no profit in our blood, and no praise from us in the dust. We now therefore cry, and make supplication unto thee. And we trust that thou wilt hear and have mercy upon us. We stand in need of purifying grace, no less than pardon. Create in us clean hearts, renew within us right spirits. Conform us more and more to thy blessed image, and having a sense of thy forgiving love in Christ brought home to us by thy Spirit, let us run with enlargement of heart the way of thy commandments. Let thy grace strengthen us against inward weakness and outward temptations. If left to ourselves we become foolish and thoughtless; and are ever ready to fall down the prey of our spiritual enemy. Deliver us then by thy power, lest we expose ourselves to thy correcting hand. If however, we should come to meet with trials let us not despond, but rather, resigned to thy will, hope in thy returning mercy, and having our soul's desire to thee, and to the remembrance of thy name, comfort ourselves with the recollection, that though weeping may endure for a night, joy will come in the morning. For these purposes bless to us the means of grace, and bless the same to all who are privileged to enjoy them. Go forth on this thine own day, with a preached word everywhere. Let thy name be glorified in the conversion of sinners, and the edification of saints; wherever the name of the Saviour is declared in truth, may he be the power of God, and the wisdom of God unto salvation. Draw nigh unto such as are in distress. Comfort the mourners, relieve the oppressed, speak peace to the dying. Hear this day the prayer of the aged man. Hear the prayer of the man engaged amid the cares of life. Hear the prayer of the inexperienced man. And may all these, with ours, ascending to heaven above, draw down a blessing, even the answer of peace, from thee the mighty God of Jacob. And to thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be all praise for ever and ever. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM XXXI.

ALMIGHTY and most blessed God, who art the Father of lights and the fountain of all blessing, we would upon this, the evening of thy holy day, come into thy presence, and worship at the foot-stool of thy throne on high. Thou art our Creator. Thou didst at first form us out of nothing, breathe into us the breath of life, and make us rational, and living, and immortal souls. We depend upon thee for the continuance of life and all its enjoyments. Were thy hand

withdrawn for one moment, our breath would depart, our countenance would change, we would decay and die. Let us then ever remember that we are not our own, but that we are thine, and that to thy unmerited kindness we owe every thing which we have, and everything which we hope to possess. More especially, O our God, let us, in the day of trouble and grief, when these may come, put all our trust in thy mercy. The carnal spirit, we feel, is most ready at such seasons to look to the creature, and expect to find relief in the world. But alas, that is vain. Let us then be animated with the spirit of those who, being reconciled to, are in covenant with, thee through Christ, and thus knowing that their immortal interests are secure, have, in tribulation, not only peace, but even comfort and joy. And that this may be the case, may thy Holy Spirit open to us, out of thy word, our fallen condition as sinners, lead us to increasing faith in Christ the Saviour, and so fill our souls with all joy in believing. We know that without this there can be no true happiness here. We are every day exposed to temptation. But if we have an interest in thy word, and a share in the riches of thy grace, a triumph will be obtained by us over every enemy. We know that we are every day liable to suffering. But if we have an interest in thy word, and a share in the riches of thy grace, all things, whether prosperous or adverse, will work together for our good, as well as for thy glory. We know that we are every day subject to death. But if we have an interest in thy word, and a share in the riches of thy grace, we shall, at the last hour, be able to commend our spirits into thy hand, seeing thou hast redeemed us, Lord God of truth. Our souls then would wait for the Lord; yea, our souls would wait for the Lord more than they who watch for the morning light. Keep us ever in thy fear; guide us ever by thy counsel; leave us not to ourselves; give us not over to the world. Follow with a blessing all the religious exercises in which we or thy people any where may have been engaged in. Pardon the sins of our holy things. Forgive our formality, our insensibility, our indifference, which too frequently mingle with our religious services. Let thy knowledge be spread over all people. Comfort, this evening, the depressed, and be gracious to the dying. Let thy hand be about us and all our friends. If it be thy holy will that we should see the light and partake of the enjoyments, fit us for the duties of another day. The longer we live, let us live the more to thy praise, and be gradually fitted for spending an eternal Sabbath in the land of rest. Mercifully forgive our unnumbered sins; and all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—EXODUS xv.

O LORD, who art the only living and true God, praise waits for thee in Zion, and thou alone art the object of adoration and homage, obedience and love. Thou art great, and greatly to be had in reve-

rence, being a great God, and a great King above all gods. This striking perfection of thy all-glorious nature, thou hast exhibited in all the works which thou hast done among the children of men. In the beginning thou didst make the heaven and the earth, and all that therein are. At thy command, for thou art omnipotent, the sun and all the host above shone in the fair firmament. At thy command, the earth, with its strength, and fertility, and beauty, stood upon her everlasting pillars. At thy command, man and beast, and every living thing, were seen to people the fair fabric. Surely there is no God like unto thee, and there is none among the sons of the mighty who can once be compared unto thee. Glorious art thou in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders. As in the omnipotence of thy power, thou hast created, so in the exercise of that attribute thou still superintendest the affairs of thy universe. All things are under thy command and guidance; all creatures, animate and inanimate, depend upon thy providence and care. Thy mercy is in the heavens; thou art the preserver of man and beast. Let us then extol thy name, let us tell thy excellence, let us show forth the wonders of thy power. We would ever adore thee, especially as the Redeemer of the guilty, through thy Son, our Saviour. Blessed be thy name, that thou didst think of us in our low and in our lost estate. Blessed be thy name, that thou didst send the Son of thy love to die for us. Blessed be thy name, that our redemption has been accomplished, and that he is now a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto Israel, and the remission of all their sins. O Lord our God, as our bodies are constantly sustained by thy power in life, and breath, and all things, may our souls be redeemed from sin, through the might of thy grace. Deliver us then, we beseech thee, from the punishment of guilt; emancipate us, we beseech thee, from the dominion of sin; raise us, we beseech thee, above the power of temptation, so that we may experience upon our souls the influences of that Almighty Spirit which quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things that be not, as though they were. We are very ready, we acknowledge, to forget our dependence upon thee, and to ascribe our mercies to our own merits. O deliver us even from such a delusion; may we ever remember, that as thou art the God of our life, and the fountain of our salvation, so every blessing, whether it be the attainment of good, or whether it be deliverance from evil, is owing solely to him in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Let us therefore often meditate on the riches of thy love. For thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people whom thou hast redeemed, thou hast guided them by thy strength to a holy habitation. We commend us unto thee at this time. As thou hast spared us through the night departed, and brought us to the light and enjoyments, fit us for all the duties, of another day. O Lord, save us from outward accident. O Lord, keep us from evil. O Lord, visit us with thy goodness. O Lord, comfort us with the hope of thy salvation. Guide us by thy counsel, prepare us for thy will, and finally receive us to thyself. And all we ask is only in the name, and for the sake of Christ. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MARK VIII.

ETERNAL God, who art every where present, the Father of lights, and from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, we may well adore and bless thy name. O how many have been thy wonderful works, and thy compassionate thoughts to the fallen sons of men. But alas, we are most ready to forget the God who made us, and lightly esteem the rock of our salvation. Deliver us from this sin, and remember it not any more against us. We adore thy name for all the mercy shown to us throughout this day. And now we pray that we be enabled to glorify thy name, both by reason of thine own excellence, and by reason of thy kindness to us. May we rejoice in thee at all times, as our help and our hope, and instead of ever desponding in times of trial, may we take thy past, as a pledge of thy future love. Above all things, we pray for spiritual blessing; and while thou art feeding our bodies with the bread which perishes, feed our souls with the bread of life, which cometh down from heaven, and of which, if a man eat, he shall never die. Lord, evermore give us this bread. May our souls then be enlightened with the knowledge of thy truth, fitted with heavenly grace, and inspired by the breathing of thine eternal Spirit. Then we shall live happily here, and be prepared for the exercises and enjoyments of hereafter. We lament before thee, the sad depravity of our hearts; we mourn over our readiness to depart from thy ways. O establish us in the faith! O conform our souls to thine image! O strengthen our resolutions! In the day of duty may we be diligent, in the season of trial patient, in the hour of temptation faithful. Taking up our cross may we follow Christ, and whatever inconveniences may arise in this career, may we be strengthened to bear with them all, and be more than conquerors through him who loved us. Be with us, and with all connected to us, whether by the ties of nature, or friendship, or grace, this evening. Watch over us. Let no evil come nigh unto us. If thou art pleased to spare us until another day, when we awake may we behold thy face in righteousness, and be satisfied with thy likeness. Hear and accept for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XVI.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed Lord God, look upon us in mercy, now that we approach thee in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Saviour, and in a dependence on the assistance of thy Holy Spirit. Thou art infinitely exalted, yet infinitely condescending. Though thou art altogether independent of us, and we have offended grievously against thee, thou takest a kind and fatherly in-

terest in all our concerns, both temporal and spiritual. We thank thee for all those instances in which the dispensations of thy providence towards us have been directly and obviously favorable. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. Give us grace to be thankful also for all the privations and troubles with which we have been visited, and to say, from the heart, Shall we receive good at the hand of the Lord, and shall we not receive evil also? Continue, we beseech thee, to furnish us with whatever is necessary for our bodily support, while we sojourn on earth. Give us day by day our daily bread; and having food and raiment, may we be therewith content. But O let us not be so concerned and busied about the meat that perisheth, as to neglect that meat which endureth unto everlasting life. Feed us, we pray thee, with the bread of life that cometh down from heaven. Lord, refresh our souls with light, and pardon, and peace, and holiness, and all the blessings of gospel salvation. May it please thee, also, to keep us in a spirit of habitual and constant dependence on the communications of thy grace, so that we may daily and hourly be obtaining fresh supplies from the inexhaustible fountain of our Redeemer's fulness. May the pure and noble enjoyments which thou hast provided for us, abundantly satisfy our souls, so that we may never become desirous of returning to the follies and sins of the world, which we profess to have heartily forsaken. Lord, enable us so to conduct our temporal concerns that they may not interfere with those of our souls and of eternity. Give us, especially, to have a most conscientious regard to thy holy sabbath. May we wisely prepare for its weekly return; may we hail it when it actually arrives; and may we enjoy it as a foretaste of the rest which remaineth for thy people, and improve it as a preparation for an eternal sabbath in heaven. We bless thee for watching over us during the darkness and silence of the past night, and for sparing us to see and enjoy this day. With the light of the morning lift upon us the light of thy gracious and reconciled countenance. Take us under thy protection throughout the day. Keep us from all evil, and assist us in every duty. Never leave us, O Lord; never forsake us. While we live, may we be guided by thy counsel, and when we die, may we be received to thy glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MARK IX. 1-29.

Most gracious God, may we find it good for us to be here, and to be thus engaged at this time. Though we cannot be always employed in positive acts of worship, may we delight in frequent opportunities; and even while we are discharging other duties, may we be ever ready to turn to thee, and in respect of the prevalent disposition of our minds, pray without ceasing; pray always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit. Glory be to thee, O

Father of mercies, and God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for sending thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son into the world, to suffer and die for us miserable and perishing sinners. And blessed be thy name, O thou divine Redeemer, who didst so long veil that glory of which a glimpse was given on the mount of transfiguration, and didst accomplish that decease at Jerusalem on which all our hope of mercy is founded. What could we have looked for but fiery indignation, hadst thou not put away sin by the sacrifice of thyself? But if even while we were enemies, we were reconciled by thy death, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by thy life? How are we indebted to thy bounty, O Lord, we whom thou hast redeemed with so precious a ransom, enriched with so noble a gift, honored with so high a privilege! What fear, what love, what thanks, what praise, are due by us to thee who hast thus pitied, thus loved, thus rescued, thus sanctified, thus exalted us! The whole of our ability, the whole of our hearts and services, our very life and being, are thy just tribute. But, alas, how weak, and sinful, and lukewarm are we! What can we do without thee? Thou, therefore, from whom all good things do come, impart to us, for thy name's sake, of thy good treasure, that of thy own good gifts we may give back again to thee, and, by thy grace, be enabled to trust, and serve, and please thee, and to render thee due and daily praise for all thy works of mercy, yea, even for the very power of rendering thee this praise. What requital shall we make for all thy inestimable mercies! Thou commandest us to love thee, but how can we ever love thee enough? nay, who are we, that thou shouldest desire or accept our love at all? In truth, however, may we be able to say, Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that we love thee. Thou art our strength, our fortress, our refuge, our helper, our deliverer: in a word, thou art our God; and whatever we have, or can do, or are, or hope, all is of thee, and in thee, and by thee, and to thee. The case of the demoniac is but a faint emblem, O Lord, of our sinful, degraded, and enslaved condition, from the very womb. Deliver us by thy grace and power, deliver us and ours from this wretched thralldom. Enable us, we pray thee, to realize the blessings of salvation, through faith in the righteousness of the Redeemer. May it be given unto us, in behalf of Christ, to believe in his name. We believe; Lord, help our unbelief; Lord, increase our faith. Open our ears to hear thy truth. Enable us to incline our ear and come to thee, to hear that our souls may live. Open also our lips, that our mouth may show forth thy praise. May nothing proceed out of our mouth but that which is good to the use of edifying. May we delight to speak of the things of God, and to spread abroad the savor of the Redeemer's name. Strengthen us also, we beseech thee, for all the duties of the Christian life, that we may prove the sincerity of our profession, and the reality of our deliverance from the guilt of sin and the bondage of the devil, by the evidence of a useful and holy life. Give us repentance to the acknowledging of the truth, that we may recover ourselves out of the snare of the devil, who are naturally taken captive by him at his will. May we be strong in thee, and in the power of thy might. Taking to ourselves the whole

armor of God, may we be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. We thank thee, heavenly Father, for thy goodness towards us throughout the day which is now drawing to a close. Pardon, we pray thee, whatever thou hast seen amiss in us, for in many respects we have erred and come short. Take us under thy protection during the watches of the night; grant us needful refreshment; and spare us to see and to enjoy a new day. May we pass the remainder of our days in thy fear, and may we die in thy favor, for the sake of the Lord Jesus, for whom we bless thee, and to whom, with thee, the Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, be ascribed equal and eternal praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XVII.

BLESSED be thy name, O heavenly Father, for the fellowship with thee and with thy Son Jesus Christ, with which thou favorest all thy believing people. Blessed be thy name for the refuge and help they find in thee. Let thine ear be ever open to our cry, and let thine eye be ever upon us for good. Should all things appear to be against us, and all our means of deliverance fail, be thou our present help in the time of trouble. To thee all things are possible; and when thou beginnest to work, difficulties disappear, and sorrows are dissipated. Forever blessed be thy name, if thou hast given us to know thee as our reconciled God, to accept of thy salvation, and to find rest under the shadow of thy wings. Thou knowest, O Lord, our need of refreshment in this our journey through the wilderness of life; thou knowest all the wants of our bodies, and all the longings of our souls. In both respects do thou supply us; in both respects may bread be given unto us, and may our water be sure. O let us not mistake the true nature and the true source of consolation; let us not be guilty of the sin and folly of forsaking thee, the Fountain of living waters, and hewing out to ourselves broken cisterns that can hold no water. O God, thou art our God, early will we seek thee; our souls thirst for thee, our flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is. We stretch forth our hands unto thee. Hear us speedily, O Lord; our spirits fail: hide not thy face from us, lest we be like them that go down into the pit. O satisfy us early with thy goodness. Lord, give us living water, that drinking thereof, we may never so thirst again, but that it may be in us a well of water, springing up into everlasting life. Carry us on safely, we beseech thee, quite through this desert; and bring us at last to the place where we shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on us, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne, shall feed us, and shall lead us unto living fountains of water; and God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. But, O Lord, we would not forget that we are yet in the wilderness, and exposed to the assaults of many enemies. In

the name of our God we will set up our banners. Lord, hear us in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend us, and save us, and give us the victory. We beseech thee, O Lord, more particularly to defend us from all the dangers, both temporal and spiritual, to which we may be exposed, and to assist us in all the duties to which we may be called, during the day on which we are now entering. While we bless thee for thy care during the night, we implore the continuance of thy favor. Our voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will we direct our prayer unto thee, and will look up. May we walk in the light of thy countenance; in thy name may we rejoice all the day. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O our God. Lord, accept of our imperfect services, and grant us an answer in peace; in the name, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MARK IX. 30-50.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who wast, who art, and who art to come; thou art worthy to receive glory, and honor, and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they exist, and were created. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy, and all nations shall come and worship before thee. All thy works praise thee, O Lord, and thy saints bless thee. We will speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men thy mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of thy kingdom. Thou, O Lord, madest us that we might promote thy glory, and be perfectly happy with thee; and glory be to thy name! though we have rebelled against thee, thou hast provided a way for our restoration to thy favor. We confess and deplore before thee our great sinfulness by nature and practice. Behold, we were shapen in iniquity, and in sin did our mothers conceive us. Our hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. We have done the things which thou hast forbidden, and we have left undone the things which thou hast commanded; so that there is no spiritual health in us. God be merciful unto us, sinners. See, O God, our shield; look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. Blot out our manifold offences, for the sake of him who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification. Lord, humble us under thy mighty hand, that we may be exalted in due time. Teach us true humility, both towards thyself, and towards our fellow-creatures. Give us a right and charitable frame of spirit towards all men. May we be ready to do good to all, as we have opportunity, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Lord, sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit, and form us more and more after thine own image. Convince us of the absolute necessity of obtaining deliverance from the love and practice of sin, in

order to escape from the coming wrath. Deliver us from presumptuous sins, and from secret faults; let no iniquity obtain dominion over us. Save us particularly from the sins that most easily beset us, and enable us heartily to renounce them, though they may have been dear to us as a right hand, or a right eye. While we tremble at the thought, we yet acknowledge thy goodness, O Lord, in unveiling to us, in some degree, the terrors of the place where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. Lord, avert from us a doom so insupportable. Lord, save us from going down to the pit, for thou hast found a ransom. Lord, enable us to flee for refuge to the Saviour. Whatever else thou deniest us, deny us not thy grace; take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Of whatever else we may come short, let us not come short of heaven. We offer thee our united thanks for thy goodness to us during the day. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High; to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Deliver us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, as well as from the arrow that flieth at noonday. May we lay ourselves down in peace, and sleep; for thou, Lord, only makest us to dwell in safety. While we sleep, let no plague come nigh our dwelling; and may we awake in the morning to sing of thy mercy. Our waiting eyes are towards thee, O Lord. Hear in heaven, the habitation of thy holiness. When thou hearest, forgive, and send us an answer in peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XX.

O LORD our God, thou art very great, thou art clothed with majesty and honor. Thou art the maker and preserver of heaven and earth. Thou alone art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honor, and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. Thou art the sovereign Ruler of the universe, to whom every knee should bow, and every tongue confess. Thou art our God, and thou hast been our fathers' God. Thou art the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom thou hast loved us with an everlasting love. O impress our minds with just views of thy glorious perfections, and fill our hearts with a deep and abiding sense of thy great and undeserved mercy, in sending thy Son to visit and redeem our souls. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast laid help for us on one so mighty, and so willing to save. Wert thou to enter into judgment with us, we could not answer thee; by deeds of the law no living flesh shall be justified, for we have all sinned, and come short of thy glory. O that we may be found before thee, having not our own righteousness, which is of the law, and which is as filthy rags, but having the righteousness of Christ, even the righteousness which is of God by faith; washed, and justi-

fied, and sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. But while we rejoice with humble and heartfelt gratitude, that we are not under the law, but under grace; we would remember that the law is holy and just, and good. O that we may obtain clear and solemnizing views of its extent, for it is exceeding broad; and of its spirituality, for it reaches to the very thoughts and intents of the heart. May it give us the knowledge of our sins, and thus prove a schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, who is the end of the law for righteousness, to every one that believeth. May that love of God which is the fulfilling of thy law, be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, that constrained by this divine principle we may learn more and more to deny ourselves to all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present evil world. May the fear of the Lord be before our eyes continually, that we may stand in awe, and not in sin. May we be enabled to worship and serve thee, now, and at all times, with true hearts and right spirits. May we delight in all those ordinances of thy grace, which bring us into communion with God. May we especially account thy sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord and honorable, turning our foot away from whatever would profane it, not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasures, nor speaking our own words; that so we may delight ourselves in the Lord. May we be kindly affectioned one toward another; remembering this thy holy commandment, that he who loveth God, should love his brother also. May we have grace to cherish, and exercise all those domestic affections, which bind the family circle together in the bonds of mutual love. May we be holy in all manner of conversation in our intercourse with others. May we be enabled to do justly, and to love mercy, and to speak every man truth with his neighbor; whatsoever we would that others should do unto us, may we do so also unto them. Lord, let us not think that we have already attained, or that we are already perfect. But forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, may we press on towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God. And when at length he who is our life shall appear, may we also appear with him in glory. We are unworthy of the least of these thy mercies, but worthy is the Lamb who was slain for us. For his sake take away all our sins, and send us an answer of peace, and to thy name shall be all the praise, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MARK X. 1-27.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, thou art the former of our bodies, and the Father of our spirits; and great cause have we to make mention of thy loving-kindness in the morning, and of thy faithfulness every night. Assembled as we are anew around the

domestic altar, we would remember that thou settest the solitary in families, and determinest the bounds of our habitations. We would praise thy name for the provision thou hast made for the welfare and happiness of mankind by implanting within us those affections which bind us together, and by establishing and blessing all those endearing domestic relations, on which, in this life, our mutual comfort so greatly depends. Grant, O Lord, that in all these relations, we may be found through thy grace faithful to each other, and faithful to thee; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, dwelling together in the unity of the Spirit, which is the bond of perfectness, living as heirs of the grace of life, and walking in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord, blameless. Blessed be God for the abundant encouragement we have received, not only to come ourselves, but to bring even the young and tender unto Christ our Lord. As we were all in infancy dedicated to the Saviour in the holy ordinance of baptism, may we be kept by his mighty power through faith unto salvation. Alas! how little have we realized the obligations which our early dedication unto God involved! we have sinned against Heaven and before thee, and are no more worthy to be called thy children. Lord, grant unto us the grace of true repentance, that as we have done iniquity in the time past, we may do so no more. May we indeed have power given us through faith to become thy children, that day by day we may commit our way unto the Lord, and that night by night we may lie down trusting in the care and protection of our Father in heaven. And seeing, O Lord, that in this world we are beset on every hand with temptations and snares, let us not be high-minded, but fear. Lord, let not the cares of this life, neither the deceitfulness of riches, nor the lusts of other earthly things, enter in to entice us away from thee. May we learn to live above the world even while we are in it. Knowing that the fashion of this world passeth away, that here we have no continuing city, nor sure place of abode, may we have our treasure in the heavens, and our hearts there also; and by patient continuance in well-doing, be seeking for glory, honor and immortality. May the love of God be so abundantly shed abroad in our hearts, that we may be ready at all times to deny ourselves, to take up our cross, and to follow him who redeemed us, not with corruptible things such as silver and gold, but with his own precious blood. May our souls be so filled with a sense of what he hath done and suffered for our sakes, that we may be ready to suffer the loss of all things for his sake, and to esteem even the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. And grant that, following him in the regeneration, through good report, and through bad report, we may at length be found meet for the inheritance of the saints. And when he who is our life shall appear, may we also appear with him in glory. Hear us, good Lord, and when thou hearest forgive; turn not away thy face from us, neither our prayer from thee, and all that we ask is for Christ Jesus' sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XXIV.

ALMIGHTY God, thou art the high and the lofty One who inhabitest eternity, and whose name is holy. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look upon sin. The heavens are not clean in thy sight. Thou chargest thine angels with folly. How much more abominable and filthy is man, who hath drank up iniquity like water! We, O Lord, are all by nature the children of wrath, even as others. We have committed two great evils: we have forsaken thee, the fountain of living waters, and we have hewn out for ourselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Our whole nature is corrupt; our minds are blinded through the ignorance that is in us; our hearts are depraved; there is no health in us. In us, that is, in our flesh, there dwelleth no good thing. To do evil, indeed, we can, but to do good we have no knowledge. Even the good that we would, that we do not; but the evil that we would not, that we do. Blessed be God that we are not under the law, but under grace! Blessed be God for the rich provisions of a covenant of mercy; a covenant which is well-ordered in all things and sure. In and through that covenant we rejoice to believe that thou art just, and the justifier of the ungodly who believe in Jesus. May the blood of that everlasting covenant be applied to our souls, that our guilt may be taken away; that the curse of a broken law may be forever removed from us, so that, whereas we were sometime far off we may be brought nigh through the blood of Christ. Receiving it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that he died for sinners, even for the chief, may we obtain peace through the blood of his cross, even peace with God. O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God. Herein indeed was love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us, sparing not his own Son, but freely giving him unto the death for us all. May that love of God, that perfect love which casteth out fear, be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, that so we may be encouraged and strengthened with humble confidence to draw near to thy presence, and to hold communion with thee as our reconciled God and Father in Christ Jesus. And, O Lord, may we find grace to walk worthy of that high vocation wherewith we have been called. May we live as becometh those whom God hath chosen out of the world, to be an holy nation, a peculiar people unto himself. Having avouched the Lord to be our God, having solemnly engaged that whatever others do, as for us and our house we will serve the Lord, may we come out from the world, and be transformed by the renewing of our minds, and give ourselves up, soul, and body, and spirit, as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. May our life be, even now, hid with Christ in God; and when he who is our life shall appear, may we also appear with him in glory. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MARK X. 28-52.

O LORD our God, thou art the hearer of prayer, and unto thee shall all flesh come. Blessed be thy name, for the freedom of access we enjoy to thy throne of grace, and for the sure promise we have received, that whatsoever things we shall ask in Christ's name, believing, we shall receive. Help us to ask in faith, believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee. O Lord, do thou impress our minds with a deep and abiding sense of the preciousness of Christ. May we account all other things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of the Saviour; may we feel that all other things are less than nothing and vanity, compared with winning Christ, and being found in him. Under this conviction, may we be ready to follow him through good report, and through bad report; to take up our cross, to deny ourselves and to go after Jesus. And grant that we may be daily growing up into him in all things, who is the head, that we may attain to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. May we take his yoke upon us, and learn of him who was meek and lowly of heart; putting on bowels of mercies, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, that so men may have cause to take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. Forbid, O God, that we should think we have already attained, or that we are already perfect. This one thing may we do, forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, may we be ever pressing on towards the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. And instead of proudly and self-complacently assuming a right to thy favor, may we feel that we are less than the least of all thy mercies, and that it is only because thy compassions fail not that we are not consumed. Truly we are unprofitable servants. We have done the things we ought not to have done; we have neglected those things it was our duty to do. Good Lord, sanctify to us all the trials and vicissitudes of our earthly pilgrimage. When oppressed at any time with afflictions, may we learn to look unto Christ who endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the majesty in the heavens. And grant, heavenly Father, that we may be apt to learn those lessons of heavenly wisdom which the dispensation of thy providence towards us may be fitted and designed to teach. May we walk before thee as children of the light and of the day, committing our way unto the Lord. In thy light may we see light clearly, and rejoice in the hope of thy glory. Forgive, O Lord, the sins of this day, and of all our days. We thank thee for the goodness and mercy, thou art still making to follow us. May we lie down this evening and take quiet rest; may no plague come nigh our dwelling, and at whatever time we awake, may we be still with God. Let thy mercy, O God, be still on us, as we hope in thee. And to thy name in Christ Jesus, shall be everlasting praise. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XXXII.

O LORD, thou art the King of glory. Thou art clothed with light which no man can approach unto, and live. We thank thee for the revelation which thou hast given of thy character and will, both in the works of thy hand, and in the word of thy grace. We especially praise thee for having made thyself known to us, as God, in Christ, reconciling us to thyself, and not imputing our trespasses unto us. We lament that such slight and passing impressions have been made by these discoveries, on our minds. Our understandings are still darkened by error and sin. Our hearts are awfully dead to the awakening truths of thy word. We remain strangely-insensible of our condition toward thee, and the eternal world. There is in us a mournful want of true relish for thy service. And even when we draw near to thee with our mouths, and honor thee with our lips, our hearts continue, or soon depart, far from thee. After all our approaches to thy throne of grace, and all the manifestations given to us of thy glory, and all the professions which we have made of repentance, and love, and new obedience, we have been still turned aside by a heart that is deceitful above all things, and grievously infirm, and we have straightway forgotten all thy mercies, and all our solemn engagements to be thine. Lord, enter not into judgment with us. Let it repent thee concerning thy servants. Satisfy us early with thy mercies. May we know and see, that it is an evil and a bitter thing, thus to have forsaken the Lord our God. Humble us under thy mighty hand. Exalt us in the righteousness and strength of Jesus. Blessed Redeemer, we look to thee to enlighten us by thy word and Spirit, to give us peace through the blood of thy cross, to purify our heart by the inworking of thy grace, to save us by thy mighty power from the hand of all our enemies. Lord, prevent us from attempting to serve thee longer with a double mind. Give us truth in our inward parts. Bring us over to thy side; that we may no longer try to serve God and mammon, and continue halting between two opinions; but follow thee fully, and serve thee in sincerity and truth. O Lord, enable us to keep our hearts with diligence, for out of them are the issues of life. Set a watch before the door of our lips, that we offend not against thee. May we ponder the path of our feet, and be companions of them that fear thee. Be at our right hand, and at our left, that we may not be moved; may we live in the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit. Dwell within us O holy and gracious Sanctifier and Comforter, that we may live every hour for eternity, and be found meet for the kingdom and glory of the Lord. We pray for thine own blessing to each member of this family, for abundant grace to all the families of thy people, for comfort to the afflicted, succor to the tempted, and eternal life to those who are passing through the valley and shadow of death. We pray for the coming of thy kingdom of grace in the hearts of all men, that thy will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven. And now, Lord, receive us graciously and love us freely, accept our thanksgiv-

ings for the mercies of the past night, and of this morning. Keep us in thy fear throughout this day. Preserve us by thy mighty power through faith unto salvation, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MARK XI.

O LORD, thou rulest over all. The earth is thine, and the fulness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord, and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Lord, we bless thee and magnify thy name for coming into this world of sin and misery, and dwelling among us, God manifested in the flesh. We bless thee for all the tokens thou didst give us of thy condescension and love as well as of thy greatness. O Father, we remember, with faith and thankfulness, the humiliation of thy Son, his works of power and mercy, his obedience unto death. We praise thee, O Lord Jesus, for having come in the name of the Lord to save us. Thou hast set up thy kingdom on the earth, and art gathering into it a faithful people. O establish thy reign of grace in our hearts, producing righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. This evening we look back on our past lives, and confess, with shame and sorrow, our procrastination, our backslidings, and our obstinate continuance in sin, the iniquity of our thoughts, and words, and actions, our unholy tempers and habits, our earthliness, and pride, and folly, our neglect of commanded duty, our commission of forbidden sin. We are little better than cumberers of the ground, and yet we beseech thee, merciful God, to spare us, till, by thy grace working in us, we recover strength before we go hence and be no more in this world. Great has been thy long-suffering toward us. Let it prove our salvation. Fill us with repentance and faith in Jesus. O may we seek thee with all our heart, and find thee as the hearer of prayer. Cleanse our hearts from every unholy passion which would separate between God and our souls. Spread the spirit of truth, and holiness, and peace through the church. So make thy way to be known upon the earth, and thy saving health among all nations. Have mercy on our kindred. Convert the unconverted among them, and bless, with increasing grace, and usefulness, and joy, such of them as do believe. Reward our benefactors. May they find mercy with the Lord in that day. Forgive our enemies, and dispose us to love them, and as much as lieth in us, to live at peace with all men. Draw near with thy compassion and effectual aid to the sick, and sorrowful, and dying. In the multitude of their thoughts, may they be visited and sustained by the consolations of thy Spirit. O look down in mercy on this house, and visit with thy salvation all its inmates. May we lie down in thy fear, and rest under the shadow of thy wings. And if thou art

pleased to spare us through the sabbath that is so nigh, O may we not spend it so unprofitably as many have been spent, that are forever gone; but may we spend it wholly in thy service, in private and in public, and so become meet to do and to bear thy holy will here, and to dwell in thy presence forever. And all that we ask is only for the sake of Christ, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

Tenth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM XXXII.

O LORD, this is the day which thou hast made to keep in remembrance the finished work of Jesus, whereby he made reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in an everlasting righteousness. He died for our offences, and rose again for our justification. By raising him from the dead on the morning of this first day of the week, thou hast given a perpetual testimony that his work, in behalf of all that believe, is accepted, and that in him they have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of thy grace. O Lord, we beseech thee, for Christ's sake, make us to know this day the blessedness of the man whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered; to whom thou imputest not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. Lord, we acknowledge that we have many a time restrained prayer, and refused to spread out our whole condition before thee. We have confessed our sins without forsaking them. We have prayed for thy favor and still cleaved for happiness to other things. O Lord, it is righteous in thee to hide from us the light of thy countenance, to deny us thy grace, and to leave us under guilt and corruption, while we trifle with thy majesty and holiness, and regard iniquity in our hearts. We bless thee that when we confess our sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive them, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We come before thee, this morning, O Lord, to pray that we ourselves may be enabled to see and confess our real state and character in thy sight. We would pour out our hearts before thee, and make the Most High our refuge. We would seek thee while thou art to be found, and call upon thee while thou art near. We would forsake every wicked way and every unrighteous thought, and return to the Lord for mercy and abundant pardon. We draw nigh to thee, O Lord, to confess our sins. Draw nigh to us to forgive them. Fill us with the spirit of repentance, as an evidence that thou hast granted us remission. Show us Christ's glory, as an evidence that the Father has revealed his Son in us, and accepted us in the Beloved. Melt down our hearts

in thy presence, as an evidence that thou art sitting as a refiner and purifier over us. Fill us with longings after thee, as thou art seen by thy people in the sanctuary, and found in the ordinances of grace, that we may thus know that thou hast begun a good work in us, and wilt perform it until the day of Christ. Be graciously present with all the congregations of thy people this day. Clothe thy priests with salvation, and cause thy people to shout aloud for joy. Let this be a great day of the Son of man, a day of the Redeemer's power, to make many willing to serve him in the beauties of holiness. Enable us to keep it all holy unto thee. Preserve us from thinking our own thoughts, from finding our own pleasure, from speaking our own words. May this day be to us not a weariness, but a day of rest, a time of refreshing from thy presence. We pray, O Lord, for our friends. Impart thy grace to save their souls. We pray for our enemies. Forgive them. Fill us with a forgiving and charitable spirit. Heal the sick. Prepare the dying for eternity. And as we know not what a day or an hour may bring forth, O teach us to-day, while it is called to-day, to harden not our hearts, but to hearken to thy voice. Let this day be a time in which thou shalt be found of us, O Lord. Sanctify us in soul, body, and spirit for thy service. Pardon all our sins; and accept of our persons and services, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM XXXIII.

HEAVENLY Father, we come before thee on this evening of thy holy day, to thank thee for the opportunities which we have had of waiting on thee, in the public and private exercises of thy worship. Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound. May we be of that happy number. We mourn the weakness of our faith, the coldness of our love, the vanity of our minds, and the earthliness of our conversation. In all things we come short of thy glory. In many things we greatly offend against thee. Yet to whom can we go, but unto thee. O Lord, thou only hast the words of eternal life. May we now have access unto thee through Jesus by the Spirit. Fill us with all joy and peace in believing, and cause us to abound in hope by the power of the Holy Ghost. Remember not against us former iniquities, O Lord. Remember us rather with the favor which thou bearest unto thine own. O visit us with thy salvation, that we may see the good of thy chosen; that we may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that we may glory with thine inheritance. We would sing a new song unto thee for the salvation wrought out for us by Jesus, and now applied to the soul by the Holy Spirit. We praise thee, O Lord God, for the truth and righteousness, the wisdom and mercy, the power and sovereignty, displayed in creation and providence, and especially in the work of redemption. We would celebrate these thy perfections, with reverence

and love, with faith and thankfulness. And we pray that these holy tempers and dispositions may be awakened and nourished in us and in others, by all the manifestations of thy glory which thou hast given to us in the work of thy hands, and the word of thy grace. We magnify thy mercy and grace, O God of salvation, for all the good done this day to the souls of men. Let the ordinances that have been administered and observed, be still accompanied with an abundant blessing, for the conversion of sinners, and the building up in holiness and comfort, of all that believe. Fill the whole church of God on earth with the spirit of truth, and holiness, and unity. Regenerate this depraved and wretched world. Stand by, and render successful in their labors, thy devoted servants, who are preaching the gospel in distant lands. Hasten the time, when heathen idolatry, and Mahometan delusion, and Popish superstition, and Protestant lukewarmness, and the infidelity that abounds, alas, in countries called Christian, shall vanish before the Sun of righteousness, rising on all lands, with healing in his beams! Bless the land in which we dwell. May our earthly sovereign rule in thy fear, and be protected and prospered by thy favor. May all who are in authority over us have a spirit of judgment from the Lord of hosts, when they sit in judgment. Bless the ministers of Christ, and may their flocks hear and obey the voice of the good Shepherd. May parents train up their children in the ways of godliness. May masters give to their servants what is just and equal. May servants study to honor Christ in all things. Bless all who are dear to us. Our relatives do thou bring within the bond of the covenant. Sanctify both their mercies and their trials for the good of their precious souls. Our friends and companions, whether around us, or in distant parts, we commend to thee and the word of thy grace. And for the house in which we dwell, we pray, that thy fear may be in every heart and before every eye. Our sabbaths are passing away; prepare us for the rest that remaineth for the people of God. Be our God and guide even unto death, and our portion forever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XXXIII.

GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, let our prayer be accepted in thy sight, for the sake of our Mediator and Intercessor within the veil. May his Spirit, promised to help our infirmities, teach us, assembled before thee this morning, what we should pray for, and how we should pray as we ought. We thank thee that in Christ thou hast revealed the brightness of thy glory to us, so that in Jesus, as he lived and died, we behold thee, the God of our salvation. O God, may we see our need of thy perpetual presence to guide and guard us in the right way, to lead us through the wilderness, give us victory over our enemies, and bring us, saved and made

meet for glory, into the mansions in the land of promise, which Christ is preparing for saints. Above all, may our hearts be so moulded, according to the tenor of thy covenant, that we shall learn, in spirit and in truth, the prayer of Moses, the man of God, "Show me thy way. Show me thy glory. If thy presence go not with us, lead us not up hence." May we see, may we all remember this day, that it is by thy presence, and the mighty work of thy Spirit within us, that we are separated from the world, or enjoy the privileges or walk worthy of the vocation of the people of God. If we are deprived of the light of thy countenance, or see others around us living without God and without Christ in the world, let us not rest, let us give thee no rest, till we plead in faith the promises of thy covenant, and receive the answer of peace. Lord our God, may we be humbled to repentance, when we see so little evidence of thy peculiar presence in our own souls, in the lives of those around us, in our nation, or in the administration of the ordinances dispensed in thy church. In this spirit may we be stirred up to prayer fervently, and watch and wait for the outpouring of the Spirit from on high, the revelation of thine arm, and the manifestation of thy power. Accept our united thanksgiving for the rest of the night, and enable us, during this day, to live to thee and walk with thee, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MARK XII. 1-27.

GOD of grace, who hast loved us with an everlasting love, and given thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins, help us, this evening, to glorify thy name. We thank thee that thou hast, from the beginning, revealed thy name and will in the covenant of grace to the church, and above all, that in the fulness of time thou didst manifest thy love to the world, in giving thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We believe that he was wounded for our transgressions. Lord, may the Spirit which he has promised to send forth, take of the things of Christ, revealed in thy word, and so reveal them to our souls that the love of Christ shall be shed abroad on our hearts. May we know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings. Enable us, while we profess to be his disciples, to imitate his example. In our intercourse with the world, may we walk as he walked. Let us not deceive ourselves by imagining that the offence of the cross has ceased. May we be prepared, as our Master, to experience the devil's temptations, and to meet that enemy in the world, both as a roaring lion seeking to devour, and as a serpent to beguile and ensnare us. O give us grace, while we deal faithfully with sinners, to walk as Christ did in wisdom toward those that are without, and to be able always to render a reason of the hope that is in us. Impress the instructions of his word upon our hearts. May we see how precious are the privileges by which

we are distinguished, and how great the national and personal responsibility connected with these. Enable us to render unto thee the things that are thine, and to those in authority over us the honor and obedience that is due. Let us realize the character of heirs of the kingdom of God; and while we live on earth, may we have our conversation in heaven. Forgive, for Christ's sake, the sins of this day. For thy goodness in providence we glorify thee with the gratitude of faith, and we pray that when we retire to rest we may be defended, during the night, from danger and temptation, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—EXODUS XXXIV.

GOD of grace, we adore thee as the God of glory, and bless thee that in this character, the proclamation of thy name to us is Jehovah, Jehovah God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty. We would give thee eternal thanks, that thou hast manifested the glory of thy grace to us, in Christ thy Son, God manifest in the flesh. Enable us to behold him full of grace and truth, the Mediator of the new and better covenant, in which we are brought near to God, and have access, with boldness, into the holiest of all. Day by day may we behold, in his life and death, the grace and glory of the God with whom we have to do; that, comprehending with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of the love of Christ, we may be filled, through the knowledge of it, with all the fulness of God. O may it be as a covenant God that thou art known, and contemplated in thy word, in thy works, and in thy Son; may every view of thy perfections endear to us both the promises and the commandments of the covenant. May the effect of our knowledge of Christ be the reflection of his image in our lives, so that we manifest the same supreme love to God and man which he exhibited, whose meat and drink it was to do his Father's will, and who laid down his life to save his enemies. God of our salvation, grant that we and ours may this day, and evermore, be living epistles of Christ, known and read of all men; different from the world in our faith, by which we overcome the world, and glorify thee in our several spheres, by a labor of love and patience of hope, in our prayers, in which we hold sweet communion with thee, and in our progress from glory to glory, till in Zion above we appear before thee holy, and without blame in love. Accept our united thanksgiving for the rest of the night, and the blessings and privileges of which, in thy grace, we are this day partakers. Lead us in thy way, defend us from all our spiritual enemies, and give us grace to fulfil the duties and endure the trials to which we are called, so as to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. Bless the church with which we

are connected, and all churches of Christ throughout the earth ; and may it be the fervent prayer of our hearts, that thy name, O Father, may be hallowed, thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MARK XII. 28-44.

O LORD, who would not glorify thee, who hast said to our Lord, when he ascended up on high, leading captivity captive, and receiving gifts for men, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. We rejoice to hold communion with thee through a risen Saviour, and desire to experience the power of his resurrection. By that may we realize ourselves begotten again to a living hope, and raised with Christ to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us who are kept by the mighty power of God, through faith, unto salvation. Through union to him in his death and resurrection, may we realize ourselves as called to participation in his victory over sin and death, and him that hath the power of death, as blessed with all spiritual blessings among the inhabitants of heaven, to whom, as members of the one family in heaven and on earth, in Christ the universal Head, we are already come ; and although our life is at present hid, when he, who is our life, shall be revealed in his glory, without sin unto salvation, may we also be revealed with him in glory. O may we live every day of our appointed time as those who are sealed with the earnest of the inheritance, the Spirit whom he sends forth to the day of redemption. Every day may we experience more of the mighty working of his power, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, shedding abroad the love of Christ in our hearts, and enabling us to stand, and having done all to stand, maintaining the fight of faith, and in the spirit of patience obtaining the victory. Father, put thou both the first and great commandment, and that which is like it, into our minds ; write thou these, according to the promise of thy covenant, on our hearts, and let them be exemplified more and more in our lives, that we may be holy and without blame before thee in love. May the Spirit enable us to call Jesus, Lord ; revealing to us the mystery of godliness, which is not revealed by flesh and blood. By the knowledge of that may we be blessed. Guard us against pride, above all against spiritual pride, against the love and the spirit of the world, against hypocrisy and self-deception ; and while, like the poor widow commended by the Saviour, we give all that is ours and ourselves to thee, may we do it as those who know that they are bought with a price, saying, God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—LEVITICUS VIII.

WE bow our knees this morning unto the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; for unto thee, O Lord, every knee should bow, and every tongue ascribe praise. But wherewith shall we come before the Lord, and bow ourselves before the high God? Thy excellency might justly make us afraid; for thou art not a man as we are, that we should answer thee, and that we should come together in judgment. We feel that it becomes us to stand in awe of thy majesty, for we are sinful dust and ashes: but we rejoice that we are warranted at the same time to confide in thy mercy; for this has been thy name and thy memorial in all generations, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious. Thou hast set forth thine own Son, to be a propitiation for our sins, and hast raised him from the dead, and exalted him to glory, to be a perpetual intercessor on our behalf. Him thou hearest always; and because he hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor, thou hast been pleased to declare thy willingness to receive graciously all who come unto thee by him. By him therefore would we now offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to God in his name. We desire to acknowledge thee as the giver of everything that contributes to our domestic comfort and happiness. We have to praise thee for the preservation of our lives and health, and for the continued supplies of whatsoever is needful for our bodies, or may be instrumental in furthering the welfare of our souls. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with his benefits, even the God of our salvation. In looking forward to the duties of this day, we humbly plead that sufficient grace may be bestowed, to enable us to discharge them faithfully and fully. Whether we sit in the house, or walk by the way, may we be shielded by thy providence from danger, and restrained by thy grace from sin. Be thou our strong habitation, whereunto we may continually resort. May we walk in the light of thy countenance, and in thy name may we rejoice all the day. Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord; we therefore beseech thee to maintain the cause of the afflicted and the right of the poor. Relieve the fatherless and widow; give food to the hungry, raise those that are bowed down, and heal the broken in heart. May the Lord fulfil the desires we have now so imperfectly expressed, and do for us above all that we are able to ask, for the sake of his own Son, our Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—MARK XIII.

O ALMIGHTY God, who art high above all nations, and whose glory is above the heavens, we come together this evening to adore

thy sovereignty, to make confession of our sinfulness, and to cast ourselves anew on thy mercy in Christ Jesus. From the place of thy habitation thou lookest upon all the inhabitants of the earth, and exercisest over them a wise, and righteous, and holy providence. Thou considerest all their works, that thou mayest show thyself strong on behalf of the upright in heart, and plentifully reward proud doers, by executing upon them the judgment written. When we look to Jerusalem, the place where thou didst set thy name at the first, and see what thou hast done to it for the wickedness of thy people Israel, we may well tremble for ourselves, lest we also should be cast out of thy sight, and have all our holy things laid waste. Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear so is thy wrath. Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies; thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee. Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger; the Lord shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them. Thou hast dispensed blessings to us in greater profusion than to almost any other nation on the face of the earth. Thou hast blessed us in the city and in the field; thou hast made us plenteous in goods, and in the fruit of our cattle, and in the fruit of our ground, and hast established pure religious ordinances in the land which thou hast given us, that we should be a holy people to show forth thy praise. But, alas, are we not a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, children that are corrupters? We have forsaken the Lord; we have provoked the holy One of Israel unto anger; we have gone away backward. How justly mightest thou pour out upon our land the full vials of thy wrath, making us a detestation and a curse, an astonishment and reproach to other nations. If thou shouldest bring an utter desolation upon our state, causing our enemies to ride over our heads, and us to bow submissively to their yoke; if thou shouldest take away from us the judge and the prophet, the honorable man and the counsellor, the cunning artificer and the eloquent orator, and appoint children to be our princes, and babes to rule over us, so that the people should be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbor; if thou shouldest make heaps of our cities, and leave our towns without inhabitants; if thou shouldest completely quench the light of thy blessed word, and give us over to the service of dumb idols, or the superstitions of popish ignorance, we should be constrained to acknowledge that thy judgments were righteous, because we have forsaken the covenant of the Lord God of our fathers, and our tongue and our doings have been against the Lord, to provoke the eyes of his glory. But, O Lord, we earnestly deprecate thy displeasure, although our iniquities do testify against us. Whilst we plead that thou wouldest not enter into judgment with us as a family, we would also seek the good of the land in which we dwell. Avert from it, we humbly beseech thee, the infliction of deserved evils; continue towards it the enjoyment of thy wonted kindness. Make us to mourn truly both for our personal sins and for all the abominations that are done in the midst of the land. May we, of this house, ever serve the Lord, and be found in all conditions cleaving to him with purpose of heart. May the

knowledge and love of Christ increase in this neighborhood, and in this nation, and be speedily extended throughout the world. May we abide this night under the shadow of thy wings, and may we awake in the morning with renewed energy of body and mind, and be still with God. We ask all in the name of Christ, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, the one living God, we desire to ascribe all glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—LEVITICUS X.

O LORD God Almighty, thou art to be feared above all gods, for all the gods of the nations are idols, alike impotent to help their votaries, or to hurt their despisers; but thou hast a mighty arm, strong is thy hand and high is thy right hand; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. A fire goeth before thee, and burneth up thine enemies round about. Thou takest pleasure in them that fear thee, and wilt fulfil their desire; but unto the wicked thou sayest, What hast thou to do, to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldst take my name and covenant in thy mouth. We are conscious, O most holy Lord God, that we cannot stand before thee on the ground of personal righteousness. We have neither the clean hands nor the pure heart that would entitle us to a blessing from the Lord. On the contrary, our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and the transgressions of our lives have been more in number than the hairs of our head. When therefore we stretch forth our hands thou mightest hide thine eyes, and turn a deaf ear to our supplications. Instead of granting our requests, thou mightest righteously cast us away from thy presence, or consume us in thine anger, and cause our blood to be mingled with our sacrifice. But though our sins are sufficiently numerous and heinous to deserve thy displeasure, and to provoke the manifestation of it in the execution of fearful judgments against us, yet do we feel encouraged, through the merits and mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ, to seek thy favor with humble confidence, and to hope in thy mercy. If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared, and that forgiveness we now humbly ask in his name who died for our sins. Purge us with the blood of the Lamb, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Put thy fear into our hearts, that we may not depart from thee. Make us to understand the way of thy precepts; so shall we talk of thy wondrous works. May we remember thy judgments of old, O Lord, and refrain our feet from every evil way. Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes; hold thou us up and we will have respect to thy statutes continually. We pray for the peace and prosperity of our country; we also seek the good of thy church. God be merciful unto us, and bless us, that thy way may be known

upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the wicked. Rid us and deliver us from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood. Fulfil the desire of them that fear thee; exalt the horn of thy people; let the children of Zion be joyful in their king. Be gracious to all the members of this family; with favor do thou compass us as with a shield. Cleanse each one of us from secret faults, and keep us from presumptuous sins. Let integrity and uprightness preserve us. We now wait on thee. Let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—MARK XIV. 1-31.

O LORD, thou knowest the hearts of the children of men; thou seest all their goings. From thy inspection there is no darkness, nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. Kings of the earth and rulers may take counsel together against the Lord, but thine hand shall find out all thine enemies; thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee. Gather not our soul with sinners, nor our life with bloody men, in whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes; but let integrity and uprightness preserve us, for we wait on thee. May we never withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of our hand to do it, but let us not deceive ourselves, by supposing that charity to our fellow-creatures comprehends the whole duty of man. May we be disposed at all times to honor the Lord with our substance, by employing it liberally and cheerfully, in any way that may seem truly fitted to promote the glory of thy name, or the interests of thy kingdom in the world; and however humble our services or sacrifices may be, may we derive encouragement to offer them, from considering the respect which thou hast uniformly manifested unto the lowly. We rejoice to think that we serve a Master who will receive graciously the smallest testimony of our regard for his person, and who will never forget any work or labor of love which we may show towards his name. May we never be ashamed to confess our Redeemer before men; and should the wicked speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against us for thy sake, may it be enough for our encouragement to remember thy promise, Them that honor me, I will honor. O Lord, we would be admonished by the many examples recorded in thy word, of the danger of making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. May we take heed and beware of hypocrisy, for the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment. Preserve us, O Lord, for in thee do we put our trust. Thou hast delivered our soul from death, wilt not thou deliver our feet from falling, that we may walk before God in the light of the living? We dare not af-

firm that we will never deny thee in any wise, but we desire, with all humility, to say that it is our fixed purpose, in the strength of thy grace, to cleave to thee and to thy service all the days of our life. Leave us not nor forsake us, O God of our salvation, but do thou preserve our going out and our coming in from this time forth for evermore. Thou hast put gladness in our hearts this day, by bestowing upon us many personal and domestic comforts and blessings, for all of which we desire to give thanks. And now we will lay us down in peace and sleep, for thou, Lord, only makest us to dwell in safety. Harken to the voice of our supplications, and send an answer in peace, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—LEVITICUS XVI.

HEAVENLY Father! we bless thee that we who are united by many endearing earthly ties, are, through thy good providence, again permitted to worship at thy footstool. We have been preserved during the silent watches of the night, because thy sleepless eye has watched over us, and thy unwearied arm has upheld us; and we are now permitted to kneel before thee, because thou waitest to be gracious to us. We humbly confess, that we are altogether unworthy of this renewed proof of thy paternal care. But thou art the Lord God, merciful and gracious; and instead of casting us off in thy just displeasure, thou hast continued to surround us with tokens of thy favor, and to encourage us with the most gracious promises. We desire to be grateful for the temporal blessings which thou permittest us to enjoy; and to receive with submission, and even with thankfulness, the afflictive dispensations wherewith thou hast been pleased to visit us, knowing that thou doest all things well; but above all, we would adore and bless thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. O teach us to feel more deeply and more influentially, that there is no other name given under heaven among men, whereby we can be saved, but the name of Jesus, that, as we are sinners, we can only come before the throne of thy holiness through the Saviour of sinners. Enable us through thy Holy Spirit to accept of Christ as our substitute, and our sacrifice of atonement; and to come before thee, clothed in the robe of his righteousness. We bless thee, that he who died for our sins rose again for our justification; that he is now seated at thy right hand, making continual intercession for us, and that to him thou hast committed the judgment of the last day, because he is the Son of man. We rejoice to believe that in him all fulness dwells; and that he is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. While these blessed views preserve us from despair, O Lord, suffer not our weak hearts to pervert them into a cause of presumption. We beseech thee to look down in mercy on all who are now assembled before thee. Take each individual under thy divine

protection. Accommodate the dispensations of thy providence and grace to our various circumstances, enlighten our darkness, change our sinful propensities, supply our wants, exalt our affections, renew us in the spirit of our minds. We commit ourselves, and all who are dear to us, to thee. Bless our friends, reward our benefactors; turn the hearts of our enemies, and, if they have sinned against us, enable us to forgive them, as we expect forgiveness from thee. Make us all fellow-workers together with thee, in promoting the eternal interests of each other, and of our fellow-sinners. Day after day, so long as thou art pleased to preserve our lives in this fleeting world, may we take counsel together while we advance through its changing scenes, led by thy unseen hand, comforted and guided by thy Holy Spirit, looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; and at last, having finished our course and kept the faith, may we meet at thy right hand, never more to be separated. Hear and accept of us for the sake of him whom thou hearest always, our Redeemer and advocate, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—MARK XIV. 32-72.

O LORD, we are not worthy to lift up our eyes to the place where thine honor dwelleth; yet thou invitest us to present ourselves before thee, and to look up to thee as children to a father, able and ready to help. And now, O Father, we obey thy gracious invitation, trusting in that mercy and grace which are revealed to us in the gospel of thy Son. We come, casting away from us all dependence on our own righteousness, and entreating thee to regard us in the face of thine Anointed. We have no services of our own to plead; we have no rights of our own to demand. But Christ has died for sinners such as we are; and we plead the merits of his sacrifice, and the all-prevailing efficacy of his intercession. O for his sake pardon our sins, and receive us graciously, and love us freely! Our sinful hearts, O holy God, are naked and open before thee: our secret thoughts are read by thy all-seeing eye. Create in us clean hearts, renew right spirits within us. Raise our affections from earth to heaven, from the fleeting things of time to the endless glories of eternity. O bestow upon us the spirit of our divine Master; who made it as his meat and drink to do the will of his heavenly Father; and who, even in his darkest hour of trial, said, 'Not my will, but thine be done.' We apply, O Lord, to thee, for without thy aid we are powerless and lost. O suffer us not to fall; let thy guardian arm be around us. Save us, O Lord, else we perish. To every member of this family we earnestly pray for thy blessing. O grant that wherever we go, a Father's hand may protect us, a Father's counsel may guide us, a Father's smile may cheer us. Teach us in all things to follow where thou leadest, and to obey what thou commandest; may we be fellow-workers together with

thee, in promoting the good of our fellow-creatures. In joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, in life and at death, may we lift up our souls unto thee in reverence and love; and under the guidance of thy Spirit, may we so pass through this mortal life, as to be rendered meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. With ourselves, and those who are dear to us, we desire to remember before thee the church which thou hast planted in our land, and especially that portion of it to which we more immediately belong. O bless all the means of grace, and revive thy good work among us. May our fellow-worshippers in the same house of prayer, be united together in the bands of Christian love. May the minister whom thou hast set over us in holy things, rightly divide the word of truth. May the people receive it with faith and love, and lay it up in their hearts, and practise it in their lives. Extend the blessings of the gospel to the remotest corners of the earth; and O employ us, in our humble sphere, as instruments in thy hand for bringing Jew and Gentile, bond and free, to acknowledge Christ crucified as their only Saviour; and may we and they, united as brethren on earth, at last assemble before the throne of God and the Lamb, to mingle our praises throughout eternal ages. These humble prayers we offer up in the name of Jesus Christ, the mediator of the new covenant. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—LEVITICUS XXIV.

• IN coming before thee, O Lord, on the morning of a new day, we desire to call to mind the blessings for which we are daily indebted to thy never-failing bounty. All things are full of thee. The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens. But, beyond the bounties of thy providence, thou hast magnified thy great name in the blessings of thy grace. We thank thee that thou hast cast our lot in a Christian land, and surrounded us with the light of the gospel; that thou hast bestowed upon us the invaluable treasure of the holy scriptures; and that, from our early years, we have been favored with religious instructors, who have opened our minds to the truths of thy word, and have gone before us and urged us onward in the path of duty. We bless and glorify thy name above all, for the promise of thy Spirit to instruct us. We rejoice to believe, that if we seek thee with our whole hearts we shall find thee; for to none of the children of men didst thou ever say, Seek ye my face in vain. O thou whose Spirit enlightens, and whose grace enlarges the soul, we beseech thee to visit us in mercy, and to supply all our spiritual wants. We are ignorant; do thou open our souls to the knowledge of the truth. We are guilty; do thou wash away our sins in the blood of him who died to save us. We are surrounded

with enemies; do thou bring us under the banner of the Captain of our salvation, that we may become more than conquerors. O suffer us not to abuse the privileges with which, as professing Christians, we are surrounded. Teach us to walk worthy of our high vocation, and to adorn the doctrine of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by lives becoming his gospel. Whether we live may we live unto the Lord, or whether we die may we die unto the Lord, that, living or dying, we may be the Lord's. We humbly but earnestly pray, O heavenly Father, that thou wouldst be pleased, in thy great mercy, to bestow these blessings on every member of this family, whether present or absent. Thou knowest infinitely better than we do what is good for them and for us; but whatever thou mayest be pleased to appoint concerning our temporal concerns, whether prosperity or adversity, whether enjoyment or suffering, whether life or death, O grant that our spiritual welfare may be advancing, and that all things may work together for our eternal interests, till we be all prepared for our great change, and for the employment and happiness of the world of spirits, in the presence of our Saviour and our God. While we thus pray for ourselves and our dear relatives, we would not be unmindful of the immortal souls of others. O Lord, grant that thy word may have free course and may be glorified among our neighbors, our countrymen, our fellow-Christians, our fellow-sinners, throughout the world, all who have souls to be saved. May the whole descendants of the first Adam become the children of the second Adam; that as in Adam all die, so in Christ all may be made alive, and that the predicted period may at last arrive when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. And all that we ask is in the name, and for the sake, of thy beloved Son, our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—MARK XV. 1-23.

AGAIN, O Lord our God, we come before thee with the voice of prayer and thanksgiving. Thou hast, in thy merciful providence, preserved us to the end of another week, and we receive it as a token for good that thou permittest us, notwithstanding the increasing load of our transgressions, once more to appear at thy footstool, to crave a Father's blessing. What are we, or what is our fathers' house that thou shouldst thus deign to bear with us. When we look back on the week which is just coming to a close, we are humbled under the remembrance of many opportunities neglected, of many duties unperformed, of many sins committed. Lord, be merciful to us, sinners! If we have done anything to thy glory during the course of it, we humbly own that it is to thee we are indebted both for the means and the inclination; and we desire to rejoice that thou hast made us humble instruments in thy hands. Give us grace, we beseech thee, to avoid what has been evil in our past conduct, and to persevere in

whatever has tended to promote thy holy will, in doing good to our brethren, or advancing the welfare of our own souls. May the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus, who suffered, leaving us an example, that we might follow his steps. And O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enable us to take a deeper view of our Saviour's sufferings, and to behold him with the eye of faith, wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, bearing the punishment due to our sins, and rendering thee just, while thou art the justifier of the ungodly. May we regard his death as to us the savor of eternal life, and rejoice in the blessed assurance, that thou who hast not spared thine own Son, but hast delivered him up for us all, wilt with him, also freely give us all things. O fill our hearts with thankfulness, when we remember that he bore our sins in his own body on the tree, and endured the full extent of the atoning agony, till he could say, 'It is finished.' Give us, we beseech thee, an interest in these blessed words, and enable us to know and to feel, that our salvation is accomplished; and that he, who died for our sins, is risen again for our justification, and ever liveth to make intercession for us. O may the souls of those who now address thee, united thus as they are in Christian hope, be also united in Christian love! May we regard each other, not as the perishing creatures of a day, bound together by perishing ties, but as members of Christ's spiritual body; and thus members one of another. May we bear each other's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. And do thou shed abroad thy Spirit in our hearts, that we may go on our way rejoicing; and that others, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father in heaven. We pray for all men. O may they be brought from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God. May we, making use of the means which thou hast put in our power, become instruments in thy hand for the advancement and extension of Christ's kingdom. Bless those devoted servants of the cross who have left the comforts of their native land, to preach the gospel to the heathen. O may their labors in the cause of the Redeemer be attended with the demonstration of the Spirit and of power, till the strong delusions of the prince of darkness be dissipated, and the whole earth be enlightened by the glory of the Sun of righteousness. May our supplications and thanksgivings ascend in memorial before thee, and bring down an answer of peace, through the mediation of him who liveth and was dead, and who now appears at thy right hand, making intercession for his people. Amen.

Eleventh Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM XXXIV.

THOU, O God, art infinitely great and glorious! Heaven is thy throne, the earth is thy footstool. Temples made with hands, cannot contain thee. Thy presence fills immensity. All creatures are naked and open to thy sight, and thou upholdest and governest them every one. The gods whom blinded nations fear, know not their worshippers, nor regard their cry; but thou, O Lord, art a God nigh unto thy people in all that they call upon thee for. The sparrow falleth not to the ground without thy will, nor are the smallest things thou hast made, below thy regard. Thou numberest even the hairs of our heads. However weak or oppressed thy people be, thou sufferest them not altogether to faint and to fail; but upholdest them in their goings. Thou, Lord, freest us from the hands of bloody and deceitful men, and deliverest our life as a bird from the snare of the fowler. What shall we render to thee, for all thy mercies? Open our mouths, that our lips may speak thy praise. Put thy Spirit within us, and we will bless thee at all times. Put thy spirit within us, that we may discern in all the events of life the operations of thy wisdom and power. O how often hast thou saved us out of our distresses when we had no earthly helper, and turned our mourning into joy; and for sackcloth hast girded us with gladness. Truly thy loving-kindness hath been wonderful! May the remembrance of thy favor, and the knowledge of our own unworthiness, lead us to repentance, to a deep and heart-felt abhorrence of the innumerable transgressions of thy holy and just commandments, wherewith thy word and our consciences accuse us. Alas! we have sinned both openly and secretly, we have sinned often against light, and often in ignorance, and often in violation of our most solemn vows. Work in us, O God, sorrow for sin after a godly sort. Give us grace, enabling us to depart from all iniquity; especially from all those sins which have heretofore so easily beset us, and from those to which we may be most frequently exposed. Suffer us not to forget, that, by continuing in sin, we are treasuring up unto ourselves wrath against the day of wrath, and the revelation of thy righteous judgment, in which thine adversaries shall be consumed. Convince us, O Lord, thou quickening Spirit, that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, when his wrath is kindled, even but a little. Turn us, O God, and we shall be turned; and let iniquity no longer have dominion over us. Wash us in the fountain opened in the house of David for sin and uncleanness, through the redemption that is in Jesus; we pray to be delivered from the guilt, power, pollution, and punishment of sin. By the Holy Spirit that quickeneth, may we be transformed into the likeness of the divine image, and be

made alive unto righteousness and true holiness; so that the lives we henceforth lead in the flesh, may be to the praise and glory of God; and thus have the evidence that we are the heirs of a blissful immortality. Now unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the glory, as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be evermore. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM xxxv.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God, who art the creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible; thou didst make all very good. How admirable even still, notwithstanding all the disastrous effects of sin, is the order and harmony displayed throughout all thy visible works, amid all their amazing varieties whereby they contribute to promote the universal good, and to enlarge and enhance the delight and happiness of man! But alas! O God of love, we have to lament, with deepest sorrow, that our hearts have become altogether corrupt. They are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Instead of affectionate kindness, which should bind the heart of man to man, ruling and governing all the relationships of life, and making all men everywhere benefactors of each other, there have sprung up emulations, wraths, strifes, seditions, heresies, envyings, and murders, amongst the wicked themselves; yea, and the wicked rise against them also, O Lord, who walk in thy fear; they gnash against them with their teeth, devise against them dark devices, and be hardly restrained from persecuting them cruelly unto the death. Suffer them not to prevail, but break in pieces the rod of their power, and cause thy redeemed people to dwell in safety. Continue to bless us, O Lord, with the inestimable privileges which have so long been our inheritance in this our fatherland, even freedom to worship thee in spirit and truth, under our own vine and our own fig-tree, none daring to make us afraid. Turn away and restrain the beginning of our enemies' wrath, and let it not come nigh our dwelling. Give unto all our enemies repentance and remission of sins, and by thy Spirit lead them into the love and obedience of the truth. Hasten the time when all shall become the willing and faithful servants of the Lord Jesus, and when, by having been renewed by the Holy Ghost in the spirit of their minds, they shall no longer fulfil the lusts of the flesh, but shall in heart and life show forth the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Suffer us not, under any provocation, to take vengeance upon them that hate or injure us, but enable us to commit our cause to him who judgeth in righteousness. Make us willing to love our enemies and to render them good for evil, remembering that Jesus loved us when we were enemies to thee, to him, and to all righteousness, and gave himself up unto the ignominious death of the cross, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify us unto himself a peculiar people, zeal-

ous of good works. May that mind which was in him when he suffered for us in the flesh, be also in us, that henceforth we may manifest obedience in all things to thy holy will, and be enabled, with the heart and lips, to ascribe to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, all praise, honor, and glory, both now and forever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XII.

O LORD God, maker of heaven and earth, preserver and governor of the universe, we adore thee as infinite in all thy glorious perfections. All thy works praise thee, and proclaim the greatness of thy majesty. Thy gracious providence towards all men, manifests thy benevolence and thy goodness. Thou sendest rain and fruitful seasons to the just and the unjust, to the righteous and to the wicked. By thy providence thou art calling unto all men to behold and know thee, the author of every good and perfect gift. O God, who can tell all thy loving-kindnesses? Who can count all the merciful deliverances thou hast wrought for thy people? Thou freest them from the hand of the oppressor. Thou gavest food when they passed through a desert land, and didst cause the water to spring from the flinty rock to quench their thirst. And withal, O Lord, in thy favor, thou didst appoint a ruler according to thine own heart, who was faithful in all thy house. Raise up such rulers throughout Christendom, as shall prove to be nursing-fathers and nursing-mothers to thy church. Especially so dispose the heart of our rulers, that they may so frame and administer laws in this great nation, that the churches thou hast planted in it, and hast watered from age to age, may have all due support and protection. Lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of thy tabernacle. How glorious is the city of our God, standing upon the mountain of his holiness! How beautiful for situation is mount Zion, the joy of the whole earth! Dwell, O God, forever in the midst of her, that she may never be removed. Within her may unrighteousness never be found; but be always a refuge in the time of trouble, and be watered abundantly with the healing stream of the waters of life. And whilst thou disposest our rulers to build up Zion, and to restore her waste places, dispose us, and all the people, to give honor to whom it is due; to be subject, for conscience' sake, and to lead, under them, quiet and peaceable lives, in all honesty and godly sincerity. Let not the spirit of pride, envy, and of ambition, excite any to sedition or rebellion against lawful authority. Especially, keep all them that make a profession of believing the gospel and teaching it to others, from being the movers or approvers of sedition; whereby, whether designedly or undesignedly, they hinder the advancement of thy Son's kingdom, even as Miriam did the journeying forward of the congregation of Israel. Alas! O God, that there should have been such strifes and divisions among professing Christians; that there should be so much blind-

ness to the unity of spirit in the church, the body of Christ. We confess this our sin, and acknowledge it is the fruit of a corrupt and carnal heart, in which there is so much pride and rebellion against thee, and out of which proceed so many evil thoughts and unclean desires. In righteousness dost thou punish us for our iniquities. In mercifulness dost thou afflict us. We bless thee, that thou dost chastise us, and awakenest us to a sense of thy fatherly love and gracious care. May we, through tribulations, learn humility, and to put confidence no longer in the flesh. Remove far from us that presumptuous pride which leads us to trust in our own righteousness. Give us grace, that we may receive the Lord Jesus Christ, as all our salvation, and all our desire. Seal us now with the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption, that henceforth we may ascribe all praise and glory, to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, now and evermore. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—MARK XV. 24-47.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, and yet art nigh unto all thy people on earth, providing for them food and raiment, which things fill us with many anxious cares, shut out from our thoughts all worldly cares, and enable us, with great fear and reverence, to draw near and behold the great mystery of godliness, God manifest in the flesh. Well may we wonder how it is, that he, who dwelt from eternity in the bosom of the Father's love, amid all the splendors of heavenly glory, should come down to earth, and be found in fashion as a man! Is not this earth filled with thy enemies? Is there not in every man a sinful heart, full of all proud and rebellious thoughts against thee; is it not moving and employing all the members of our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness and sin? Thy goodness is openly abused, thy laws are despised, thy holy name is blasphemed every day; and doth not thine eyes see, that among all the children of men, there are none righteous, none that seek after God? What incomprehensible impulse moved thine only-begotten Son, O Father, to take upon him a nature so vile, rebellious, and corruptible, as thou seest it in us, and by which thou art so grievously dishonored? O the height and depth of the divine love, that formed the plan of redeeming man! O the amazing love of Jesus to poor sinners, that made him, the Son of God, become the Son of man, and come into this world, not in outward pomp and royal state, but in the poor estate of a servant, that he might share in our miseries, and give us a share in his blessedness, that through his poverty we might be made rich? How wondrous to behold him, who erewhile was in the brightness of his Father's glory, and still remaining an all-sufficient God, exposed to weariness, hunger, thirst, poverty, contempt, revilings, scourgings, and persecution,—to see him who shall hereafter judge the world before God and his holy angels, accused, tried, condemned, and crucified; the Lord of life dying on the accursed tree!

Thy love, O Jesus, led thee to spend tears, groans, and blood, to save us from sin and hell, and raise us to heaven. We pray not for riches and honors in this world, but we pray that nothing may ever separate us from thy love. Let us no more sin wilfully, seeing we have received the knowledge of the truth. Let not sin reign in our mortal bodies. Let not the fear of man, nor the desire of pleasing man, lead us ever to speak lightly or untruly of thy person, character or work: let us never fall into the snare of thy great enemy, Antichrist, who now sitteth in the temple of God, working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness; but counting the past time of our lives more than sufficient to have wrought the will of the flesh, may we pass the remainder of our sojourning here in godly fear. Let neither tribulation, nor distress, nor persecution, nor peril, nor sword, nor life, nor death, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor any other creature, ever separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rooted and grounded in this love, may we be built up, an holy temple, for an habitation of God through the Spirit; and at last be presented faultless and blameless, at our Lord's coming, with exceeding joy; and to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be glory now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XIII.

ALMIGHTY, eternal, and most glorious Jehovah, we would bow down before thee, and worship, for thou art God, and besides thee there is none else. We would kneel before thee, for thou art our Maker; fearfully and wonderfully hast thou made us, and hitherto hast thou preserved us. Every day would we praise thee, and show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning; for we laid us down and slept; we awaked, for the Lord sustained us.

But wherewith shall we come before the Lord; how shall we appear in the presence of the High and Holy One. Thou, O God, art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity; thou searchest all hearts, and judgest all men. But we are all as an unclean thing, and our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. We acknowledge our transgressions; against thee, thee only, have we sinned. Our sins are more than we can number. But thou art also a God of infinite mercy, a just God and a Saviour. Thy name and thy memorial to all generations is, The Lord, the Lord God merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, though thou wilt by no means clear the guilty. We would bless and praise thee, O God, that thou hast made known to us the way of salvation. We bless thee, that in the fulness of time, thou didst send forth thy Son to be the propitiation for sin, that, through faith in his blood, we might obtain eternal redemption, even the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of thy grace. May he be made of thee unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption.

May we look to him as our example, and follow him as our guide, and cleave to him as our never-failing friend. Out of his fulness may we receive daily an abundant supply of grace suited to our various circumstances and necessities. May he direct us in duty, and succor us in temptation, and comfort us in affliction. May his strength be perfected in our weakness, and his grace be sufficient for us in every time of need.

Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, who appointest our lot, and the bounds of our habitation, bless us in the various relations of life, and in the stations in which thy providence has placed us; and by thy grace may we be enabled suitably to discharge the duties of each. Prosper us in our lawful calling. Preserve us from engaging in anything that may be displeasing to thee. Make us grateful to thee for all the gifts of thy providence. Make us contented with our lot; and grant us thy blessing with what thou art pleased to bestow. May we be careful for nothing, and in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, may we make our requests known unto thee, our God. May our conversation be in heaven. O may Christ dwell in us, the hope of glory; and even now as we go up through the wilderness of this world, this dry and barren land, may he by his word and Spirit dwelling richly in us, give us a foretaste of the blessed fruits of the heavenly Canaan. And as we draw nearer to the end of our earthly pilgrimage, may we be growing in meekness for the inheritance of the saints in light, and in due time enter into the rest that remaineth to the people of God.

And now, O hearer of prayer, graciously listen to the voice of our supplications, and send us an answer in peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—MARK XVI.

WE would adore thee, O God of our salvation, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, through whose almighty power, and unsearchable wisdom, and abundant mercy, there is salvation even to the chief of sinners. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the resurrection of his Son from the dead, hath given us the assurance of eternal redemption, and a lively hope of everlasting glory and happiness in heaven. And blessed be the Son of God, the Saviour of sinners, who humbled himself even unto death, but whom God has highly exalted. O may he who arose from the dead, and ascended on high, leading captivity captive, and receiving gifts for men, according to his gracious promise, send the Spirit unto us in the fulness of his power, and in the riches of his grace, that he may take of the things that are Christ's and show them to us, and cause us to know and enjoy the things that are freely given to us of God. O

may Christ be precious to us, as he is to them that believe. May we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. And may we know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. May all flesh see the salvation of God; may all the nations of the earth know and acknowledge Jehovah to be the only true God, and Jesus the only Saviour. And may the gracious presence of Jesus be vouchsafed to those who go forth in his name preaching the gospel to perishing creatures. May they go in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. And whilst the treasure is in earthen vessels, may the excellency of the power evidently be of God and not of man. O God of Israel, remember thine ancient people, and speedily remove the veil from their hearts, that they may discern Jesus of Nazareth as the true Messiah, and rejoice in him as their Saviour and King. And give testimony to thy word, and countenance the ordinances of thy grace, administered by thy faithful servants throughout the churches. May they have an unction from the Holy One, that their hearts may be encouraged, and that the pleasure of the Lord may prosper in their hands.

O may all of us now before thee believe to the saving of the soul. May each of us know the blessedness of those who are in Christ Jesus, to whom there is no condemnation. May we this night lie down in peace with God; and may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. Vouchsafe thy blessing, O Lord, to all whom we ought in any way to remember before thee.

And now, Lord, watch over us continually, and let thy favor compass us as a shield. And may the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, abide with us all forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XIV.

O LORD, what is man that thou art mindful of him? What are we, O Most High, that thou shouldst visit us every morning, and try us every moment? Thou hast preserved us during the night, and hast made the outgoings of the morning to rejoice over us. Father of lights, who hast again commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. May the Spirit of all grace raise us from the dust, and quicken us: may he enlighten our minds and purify our hearts; may he increase our faith and our love, and may our fellowship truly be with the Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ. It becomes us, O Lord, to acknowledge with deep sorrow and shame, that we have rendered ourselves unworthy to appear in thy presence, and unfit to engage in thy service; for we have sinned and come short of thy glory. Give us a true sense of sin. May we indeed

know and feel ourselves to be guilty, miserable, perishing creatures, without help or hope in ourselves. Justly mightest thou have required our souls of us, and given us over to eternal death, as the wages of our sin. But in thy great mercy hast thou spared us. We would regard it as a token for good, that we are still in the place of hope, and that thou art again permitting us to approach thy throne of grace, and hast not summoned us to thy judgment-seat. Most merciful God, look upon us, and deal with us in Christ Jesus, through whom alone there is access to thee, the Father. Having such an High Priest to atone for our sins, and such an advocate to plead our cause, we beseech of thee, O God, that for his sake thou wouldst be merciful to our unrighteousness; our sins, and our iniquities remember no more. Speak peace to us: say unto each of us, Be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee. We are poor and needy; Lord, think upon us; remember us with the favor thou showest to thy chosen; and supply all our need according to thy riches in glory, by Christ Jesus. Bless thy word to us as a means of grace. May it be a savor of life unto life to all, and a savor of death to none of us. Let us never judge of thy thoughts and ways according to our own. Let us never murmur at thy dispensations, or doubt thy faithfulness, because we may not now understand what thou doest. May thy Holy Spirit dwelling in us enable us to spend our lives in submission to thy will, and dependence on thy promises, and conformity to thy law, and zeal for thy glory. O God, in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways, prepare us for the events of this day, for we know not what a day may bring forth. In duty or trial, in prosperity or adversity, we desire to commit ourselves to thee, our faithful Creator, and most merciful Saviour. Enable us to glorify thee in our bodies, and in our spirits, which are thine. May our bodies be kept in honor and purity, as the tabernacle of our spirits, and the temple of our God; and may our hearts be kept right with thee, realizing thy presence, and enjoying thy favor; so that, beholding the glory of the Lord, we may be transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord. May we spend this and all our days in thy fear, remembering that thou, God, seest us in all our ways. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from all evil. Let goodness and mercy ever follow us. Hear us, Lord, in mercy; do to us and for us, exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son and our Saviour. Amen

• WEDNESDAY EVENING.—LUKE I. 1-25.

GREAT art thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; thy greatness is unsearchable. The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handiwork: day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. All thy works and all thy ways

demonstrate thine eternal power and Godhead. Thou hast never left thyself without a witness, in that thou doest good, and givest us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. But thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. O may the Spirit of all grace, by whose inspiration holy men of old spake and wrote, enlighten our understanding to discern the truth as it is in Jesus, and open our hearts to receive it in the love thereof. May the word of Christ dwell in us richly, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Preserve us, O Lord, from all presumptuous confidence in our own wisdom, strength, or goodness. Convince us that we know nothing, and can do nothing aright as of ourselves, and that in our flesh there is no good thing. Convince us that our hearts are deceitful and prone to evil; that we live in an ungodly, ensnaring world; and that we wrestle not only against flesh and blood, but also against principalities and powers, and against our adversary the devil, who, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour. May we, through the Spirit, put on the whole armor of God, and in the strength of Christ, the Captain of our salvation, may we continue steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, resisting the devil, overcoming the world, crucifying the flesh with the affections and lusts. Let no presumptuous or besetting sin have dominion over us, lest, if we regard iniquity in our heart, the Lord will not hear us. And may the Spirit of holiness enable us to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. May we, this night, O Lord, experience the fulfilment of thy gracious promise, that where two or three are gathered together in thy name, there art thou in the midst of them. Lord Jesus, come even unto us; breathe on us, and say unto us, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. And may the Spirit of Christ abide with us forever. And if there be any of us still dead in trespasses and sins, O may he quicken them by his mighty power, and raise them to newness of life; may he slay the enmity of the carnal mind, and shed abroad the love of God in their hearts, and abide in them as the Spirit of adoption, that without one exception, we may all walk together in the light, and life, and liberty, and joy of God's dear children. Graciously visit all those whom we ought to remember before thee. Comfort mourners in Zion. Speak peace to troubled souls. Give rest to them that labor and are heavy-laden. Let all who trust in thee find that thou art a present help in time of need. And now, O Shepherd of Israel, watch over us this night. Give us the sleep of thy beloved. Whilst we live, may we live to the Lord, that in life or in death we may ever be the Lord's. And unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God, be everlasting glory and praise. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XV.

O LORD God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, thou art the Shepherd of Israel, whose watchful providence and care are over all thy works. We approach thee in the name of him who was promised to the fathers, and foreshadowed by sacrifices and offices of the law; and whom all the prophets sang, and all thy saints of old expected with joyful hope. Thee, Father of mercies, eternal Jehovah; thee, Son of God, Saviour of the world; thee, blessed Spirit of grace. Comforter and guide; thee, our God, who livest forever and ever, we magnify and praise. We sinners, dust and ashes, are permitted to speak unto God. We bless thee, O Father in heaven, that one is the Mediator between thee and us, who is our brother, and thy Son; and that, with the power of God, and the sympathy of man, he maketh intercession in thy presence, on our behalf. By the publication of thy mercy, we are encouraged to confess our sins. The Lord blot out all our innumerable transgressions, through Jesus Christ, our sacrifice and priest; and give us the assurance of thy favor, and conscious peace with thee. And may the Father and the Son dwell in us; may our bodies be temples of the Holy Ghost; our hearts, altars whence the smoke of many sacrifices, kindled by fire from heaven, may ascend before thee as incense. Let our old man be sacrificed in the strength of him who suffered in weakness, but liveth by the power of God, and whose strength is made perfect in the weakness of his members. Good Lord, who hast graciously preserved us during the past night, keep us, this day, from all bodily harm, and all spiritual danger. May we be sober, and watch unto prayer. May we be just in all our dealings, truthful in all our words, kind in all our behavior, as in thy sight. May we not be conformed to this world, neither seek our portion in this life, but choose thee for our sure portion, and wait for the coming of thy Son. May our friends know thee, the true God, and Jesus thy Son, whom thou hast sent. Pardon our enemies. Bless all men. Refresh and enlarge thy church. Let thy word run and be glorified, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we address thee, Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.—LUKE I. 26-45.

O THOU faithful God, who, in the fulness of the times, didst send forth thy Son man made of a woman, we adore thy mercy and thy love, thus manifested to the world. For the world lay before thee, bitten to death by the serpent, whose head thy Son hath now bruised, and whose works he came to destroy, not without labor,

and much suffering, and baptism with blood, and tasting of death. Adored be the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we, through his poverty, might be rich. And now, since God is made flesh, and Christ is become the Son of man, and our brother, by taking of our humanity, may we also receive his Spirit, be made partakers of a divine nature, and become sons of God. And though we have borne the image of the earthly man, and through him are heirs of sin and death, may we be created anew in the image of the heavenly Adam, and become heirs with him of eternal life. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, make us, though unworthy, thy sons by faith in Christ; restore to us the character and privileges of thy children, and also the Spirit, whereby they cry, Abba, Father. And may we have the confidence of children in thee, the love, the holy desire in all things, even the least, to please thee. Let it be our meat and drink to do thy will. Forgive, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, the sins and imperfections of the past day. O cleanse us from secret faults, keep back thy servants also from presumptuous sins. May we, from day to day, grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. With more earnestness and less reserve, may we daily offer up our bodies living sacrifices to thee, the living God: and the good Lord make us perfect in every good work to do thy will, working in us that is pleasing in thy sight. Shepherd of Israel, watch over us this night, guarding us from all bodily and spiritual evil. And if we awake not in this world, may we awake in a better, where is day without night, and joy without sorrow, and life without death. We commend all men to thy mercy, our friends to thy love and care. Reward our benefactors, forgive and bless our enemies. And these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XVI.

ALMIGHTY God, who didst give Moses to be a prophet and leader, Aaron to be a priest to thine ancient Israel, we thank thee, that thou hast given unto us Jesus thy Son, to be our prophet, priest, and king. We praise thee, O God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for what he performed and suffered on earth, and for what he still does in heaven. We acknowledge, with humble gratitude, his divine instructions, illustrated by his most holy life; his humbling himself to death for our sins; his conquest of death, and satan, and all the powers of darkness: his resurrection and exaltation at thy right hand in heaven; together with those precious gifts of the Holy Ghost, which he hath given to his church. O God, with shame we confess that, as the ancient Israel rebelled against Moses and Aaron, thy messengers to them, so have we rebelled against the more glorious messenger, our Lord Jesus Christ. Like them, we have rebelled against infinite love; and we have, like them, resisted our

own good, and sought our own destruction. Lord, let us be pardoned and accepted, even through the intercession of him whose authority we have often cast off, but who has not cast us off from his compassion and love. May we wash in the fountain of his blood and be clean. The Lord take away the stony heart out of our flesh. And may we now at length submit to infinite power, infinite holiness, infinite love and mercy. Thou desirest not our death. May we not seek that which thou dost not delight in, and is our own ruin. Each day we need anew to implore thy mercy to pardon us. May we have faith to be healed, and being justified by faith, may we have peace with thee. May we also rejoice in the hope of thy glory: yea, may we rejoice in all trials, which are sent to prepare us for this blessed consummation. And may thy love be abundantly shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost. May our past sins cause us daily grief; and thy forgiving love, daily joy and thankfulness; and, confidently believing thou hast first loved us, may we love thee. Let thy Spirit witness with our spirits that we are thy children, and heirs with thy dear Son. O let us know that we know thee, by the spirit thou givest to thy children. Gracious God, may we keep all thy commandments, for to them that love thee they are not grievous, but light and pleasant. We pray thee to enlighten, bless, and save all men. Be the God of our friends. Reward our benefactors. May we love our enemies, and do good to them that injure us. Keep us, O Shepherd of Israel, during this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—LUKE I. 46-80.

O God, our heavenly Father, who knowest the end from the beginning, and callest the things which are not as though they were, we adore and praise thee. Manifold and rich are thy promises to them that fear and love thee, and yet thou dost ever exceed, in the fulfilment, that thou hast spoken. O how great is thy loving-kindness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, for them that trust in thee before the sons of men. Blessed be thou that thou hast visited and redeemed thy people. May we be delivered from all our enemies, and serve thee, without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days. May the light which is come into the world, guide our feet into the way of peace. Shine into our hearts, O God, giving us the knowledge of thyself in the fear of Jesus Christ. May we know thee as our God, and the author of all good; thy Son Jesus Christ as the deliverer from all evil; and may we know our own ignorance, guilt, and misery to be such that thou only canst deliver us from them; and out of Christ's fulness may we receive even grace for grace. O God, forgive all our sins for Christ's sake, who died for our sins and rose again for our justification. And may all the sins which are pardoned be hated and crucified; and may we yield

ourselves as servants unto God. Let thy will be ours in all things. Give us humble, meek, patient, and resigned spirits. May we joy in God and have no confidence in the flesh. Heavenly Father, may we be daily more humbled by our imperfections and barrenness. Cut us not down as cumberers of the ground. But spare us, good Lord, and may we henceforth be neither barren nor unfruitful in thy work. Graciously keep us during the silent watches of the night; and may we live in preparation for the endless day to which thy children shall awake, when the night and sleep of death are ended. All that we ask is in the name of the Lord Jesus, our advocate. Amen. Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XVII.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, which art, and wast, and art to come; who livest and reignest forever and ever; who givest life to all that live, and breath to all the inhabitants of the earth, we, thy dependent creatures, sinful dust and ashes, have undertaken to speak unto thee, and to call upon thy name. A glorious high throne, from the beginning, is the place of sanctuary to thy people, even the throne of grace; above it are the cherubim and seraphim, with their wings covering their feet, and who cry, 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, the whole earth is full of thy glory.' How shall we stand before thee, we who are of unclean lips, and who dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips? So awful is the view of thy holiness and glory, and so humbling to us poor sinners, that we are ready to tremble, and cannot behold. We should exceedingly fear and quake at a sight so terrible, but we view the glory of Christ, of God manifest in flesh—our kinsman Redeemer, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, and we are at once humbled and encouraged. We come boldly to the throne of grace, through him who is our great high priest, passed through the heavens, and who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities; and we implore mercy and grace for seasonable help. We rejoice in the root and offspring of David, the bright and morning star; the true Aaron, yea, the true Melchizedek, the priest upon his throne, the alpha and omega, the living one who was dead, but is now alive and liveth for evermore, and who hath the keys of hell and of death. We rejoice in the rod with which, as a shepherd, he feeds and protects his flock; and in his rod of power and authority, as king as well as high priest, to defend and rule his church, and to subdue all his and our enemies. Go forth, O thou mighty One, with thy sword on thy thigh, in glory and majesty, yet in meekness, truth, and righteousness. Let thine arrows be sharp in the hearts of thine enemies; that the people may fall under thee in willing subjection. Upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not upon thy name, thou hast said thou wilt pour out thy fury;

but we desire, O Lord, to give thee the glory due to thy name, as our God, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter; our God in covenant, we would flee from the wrath to come, we would lay hold upon eternal life. We would keep the passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest the destroyer should touch us. We would come under the shelter of the blood of atonement, and have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. And we pray, O Lord, that we may all of us be thy children, by adoption and by regeneration, receiving Christ Jesus the Lord for wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; putting on Christ Jesus, not making provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof. We pray, most gracious God and Father in Christ Jesus, that the blessings we ask for ourselves may be imparted also to all whom we should remember before thee, that they and we may be one in Christ Jesus; and that the blessings of thy grace may descend copiously, and rest upon the heads and the members of the several families around us, and throughout the land. And we do now, most gracious God, offer thee the tribute of our thanks for the mercies of the preceding night and of this new day; and in the name, and in the words of our Lord, we would sum up our requests, saying, Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.—LUKE II 1-24.

O THOU ruler of all, God of our lives, length of our days, our times are in thy hand, and we desire to acknowledge that we are thine. The day, O Lord, is thine, the night also is thine. To the close of another day and of another week thou hast brought us. Another portion of our precious time is gone. We anticipate the commencement of the sabbath of rest suspending our worldly occupation, and giving us a respite from our ordinary cares. We thank thee, O Lord, for that great salvation which, in the fulness of time, has been brought near to us; and that we are privileged to join with, and to emulate, the angels in their song. With glory to thee, O Lord, every morning should begin, and every evening close. Every successive week, and month, and year; every sabbath, and every sacramental season, invites us to meditate of and to celebrate the wondrous doings of the Lord, in nature, in providence, and in grace. Many, O Lord, are the wonderful things thou hast wrought, while blind, thoughtless, rebellious man observes not the operation of thy hand, neither regardeth thy doings. We would magnify thy works which we behold. Especially would we look with holy wonder into the great mystery of redemption, God dwelling with men! humanity joined with divinity! the Lord of all a babe in his manger at Bethlehem; angels celebrating his birth, while humble shepherds are the heralds of the event; the greatest event silently taking place, the great ones of the earth unconscious of it, which has produced the most important revolution in the history of the world,

for lo, the prophecy is fulfilled, 'I will shake all nations, and the Desire of all nations shall come;' and, 'the stone cut out of the mountain without hands shall fill the whole earth.' Now is come salvation, the tabernacle of God is with men! We have access, both Jew and Gentile, through one Mediator, by one Spirit, to the Father. We would ascribe to thee, Most High, the glory in the highest; we would bless thee for the peace made by the blood of the cross, and sealed by the Spirit in the hearts of thy children; and we would rejoice in the good-will shown to rebellious men, that God, the Lord, might dwell among them. And we pray, O Lord, that we, now before thee, one family, may be one in Christ Jesus, in whom all the families of the earth are blessed; that we may be accepted in our morning and evening sacrifices, and enjoy the blessedness of those whose God is the Lord. To thee, O Lord, we commend all the concerns of thy church and people; praying that peace may be with them, and mercy, and on all the Israel of God; and thy way may be known on earth, and thy saving health among all nations. And we pray that there may be preparations, this evening, throughout this land of light and of sabbaths, for the services of the approaching holy day; that thy ministers may be assisted in their studies, and blessed in their souls; that they may come forth, fully fraught with the blessings of the gospel of peace, and may there be great grace, and mercy, and peace multiplied upon all thy people. And now, O Lord, we commend ourselves to thy gracious protection during the night watches. Let no plague come near our dwelling. Give us to rest in quietness of body and of mind, and to rise rejoicing in thy love. Blot out, we beseech thee, all our sins, and the iniquities of our holy things. Hear us and answer us, for our blessed Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Twelfth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM XXXVI.

O THOU, most great, most holy, most wise, most faithful, most merciful Jehovah, who art above all, and through all, enthroned in glory, sitting between the cherubims, whom all the hosts of heaven obey, whom all thy saints love and works praise, and whom legions of rebel angels fear and dread, thy name is venerable, thy works are to be admired; thou art God alone! This day especially thou art in thy temple to be held in reverence, whilst, as the God of Israel, thou givest strength and power to thy people. We thank thee, O most blessed God, for the revelation of the Sun of righteousness, the

brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person; who, upholding all things by the word of his power, has by himself purged our sins, and is now, in our nature, at thy right hand. In him we rejoice that there is a glorious union and harmony of thy mercy and truth, of thy righteousness and grace. We pray, most gracious Father, in Christ Jesus our Lord, that we may be made to know experimentally, and savingly, what it is to delight ourselves in thee, as rich in mercy to all that call upon thee, as faithful in keeping covenant with thy chosen One, on whom our help is laid, as immovable in thy regards, and in thy engagements to thy people, for thou art the Rock of ages, the dwelling-place of thy people, in all generations. We desire, O Lord, to bless thy name, that we are invited this day to come to thy house, to thy feast of fat things; to thyself as Jehovah, our provider, our healer, our banner, our peace, our righteousness, our sun, our shield, who givest peace and glory, and withholdest no good from thy children; and we pray, holy Father, that we may come near even to thy seat, that we may wait upon thee humbly and heartily, that we may draw nourishment to our souls from thy blessed word, through the influences of thy Spirit and blessing; comfort from thy precious promises; warning from thy threatenings and reproofs; direction and light from thy perfect precepts, so that we may not err from the straight line of duty and of safety; and O may we so occupy this blessed day, this golden portion of time, that the fruits may appear good and abundant many days hence. Our Father in heaven, we pray that thy great name may this day, and every day, be hallowed here, and in every place, and more especially that through the means of thy faithful word and precious ordinances, there may be wonders of power and of grace done in the name, and by the power of the Lord Jesus among us, by thy servant our pastor; and on all the churches an abundant outpouring of thy Holy Spirit, making the whole hill of Zion, even thy church, and all places around, a blessing. O send down showers of blessings, and so let thy kingdom advance, and thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. And now, O Lord, what wait we for, but thy blessing to be on us, now worshipping, as we trust, in one of the dwellings of Jacob, who are about to worship thee in the gates of Zion, which thou lovest still more, when we would rejoice soon to have fellowship with thee, and with thy people. We commend ourselves to thy gracious care and keeping, O thou hearer of prayer, and fountain of light, and of comfort, of holiness, and of peace! Pardon all our sins, O Lord, and the sin which has attended us in this approach to thy holy presence, and hear us, and do far above what we are able to ask or to think, for our blessed Redeemer's sake, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the ever-blessed Spirit, be all honor, and glory, and blessing, and praise, now, and for evermore. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM XXXVII.

O God of all grace, whose we are, and whom we are bound to love, and worship, and obey; we again bend before thee, the God of all the families of Israel, and with David, would we return from public services of the day, to seek a blessing on our own household. Thou, O most glorious and blessed God, hast permitted many of us this day to join the worshipping assembly, to contemplate thy majesty and thy loving-kindness in the midst of thy temple, and to hear the blessed truths of thy word, which are able to make us wise unto salvation. There we have had thy word nigh to us, in our mouth, in our ear, and, we would hope, also in our hearts. Thou hast spoken to us, and we have been permitted 'to speak unto the Lord, we who are dust and ashes.' It is of the Lord's mercies we are not consumed. Here we are assembled around this domestic altar, to give thee praise; to implore thy pardoning mercy, and thy renewing and quickening grace. May we hide thy word in our hearts, that we may not sin against thee. May we not only be hearers, but doers of thy word. O that our ways were directed to keep thy commandments, then shall we not be ashamed when we have respect unto all thy righteous judgments; we will keep thy precepts. O leave us not to ourselves, but establish us. By constant reference to the truths of thy blessed word, building ourselves upon our most holy faith, by prayer in the Holy Ghost, and looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, to eternal life, would we desire to keep alive the flame of thy love in our hearts, and to enjoy a continued sense of thy favor. O Lord our God, undertake for us, help us for the glory of thy name. Bless us as a family; O if there be any of us unconverted, still strangers to the power and life of godliness, merely bowing the knee with others while the heart is unhumiliated, and the carnal mind, in its enmity against thee, still holding out; O that this may be the day of thy power, in which such shall be made willing; in which, by the mighty energy of thy word and spirit, the strongholds of pride, and of self-righteousness, and of ungodliness, and of worldliness, shall be brought down; and the Lord alone shall be exalted. O that every heart here may be a throne and an altar for thee; every body and soul a temple, in which Jehovah, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, shall reign supreme! For our friends also, and our brethren, we would pray that they may enjoy the peace of thy children; for their good, as well as our own, we will seek the prosperity of Zion, and that there may be many obtaining that salvation which thou hast appointed therein, for Israel thy people, that they may be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation! May the Lord God make known to all men his salvation. Let men of every nation, of every color, of every tongue, be blessed in Messias, and call him blessed. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who only doth wondrous things! Blessed be his glorious name forever and let the whole earth be filled with his glory! O Lord, hear

our humble and united prayers : in thy great mercy for our blessed Redeemer's sake blot out all our sins. Grant us all the blessings we need, and far above what we can ask or think ; and to thee, the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost, one ever-blessed Jehovah, be glory, and honor, and praise, now and evermore. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XX.

FATHER of mercies, God of all grace and consolation, vouchsafe thy gracious presence to us, thy guilty and rebellious offspring, while we bewail before thee our manifold sins and transgressions, and implore thy pardoning mercy and sanctifying grace. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness ; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. It is to thy mercy alone that we can appeal, for we deserve nothing from thy justice, but wrath and tribulation. We are a seed of evil-doers ; our offences exceed all calculation but thine own ; we are daily adding to their number by fresh provocations, in opposition to our own clearest convictions, our most solemn engagements, and thy paternal dealings with us, both by mercies and by trials. We cannot offer one plea in palliation of our offences. Sinners from the womb upwards, we merit the full weight of thy severest displeasure ; and whatever destiny thou mayest assign to us, we must acknowledge the justice of thy procedure. Yet we will not despair ; for, blessed be thy name, encouraged by thine own gracious promises and invitations, we flee from thy justice, to seek refuge in thy mercy. We flee to lay hold of the rich provisions of grace which thou hast treasured up for sinners in Christ. Pleading the urgency of our wants, and his abundant merits, we entreat thee to look upon us, not as we are in ourselves, but in him thine anointed. For his sake retain not thine anger against us, but spread over us the broad mantle of thy forgiveness. And, Lord, we would plead not only deliverance from wrath, but admission to favor. To give us a meetness for its enjoyment, O do thou subdue the carnal, disobedient, rebellious spirit within us, and do thou produce in us every holy principle which can lead to devoted and persevering obedience. May we be united by faith to Jesus Christ, the grand centre and depository of spiritual influences ; that by grace derived from him, we may triumph over inward corruptions and outward temptations, and walk before thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. For this, we have, alas, no resources within ourselves, for we are not more guilty than weak, dependent, and helpless. The testimony of thy word, the falls of the most holy of men, our enemies, our temptations, and our daily experience of the workings of a depraved nature within us, all unite in testifying that our own best strength is but weakness ; that the power to will and to do must proceed from thee ; and that we can stand only when thou upholdest us. A sin-

gle spark is sufficient to inflame our corruptions. The least temptation overpowers our unstable goodness. And neither past attainments nor present purposes afford us any security against falling into sins, deeply offensive to thee, and dangerous to our own peace and safety. Most merciful Father, do thou then undertake for us. Uphold our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not; and O send us such liberal supplies of the Redeemer's grace, that we may be not only steadfast and immovable, but always abounding in the work which thou hast assigned us; and that, amid all the toils and trials of our Christian warfare, we may be able to combat with ever-growing boldness, reposing upon the assurance that we fight with strength not our own, and that we shall come forth more than conquerors through him that loved us. Follow, for this purpose, with thy blessing, the holy lessons, and prayers, and vows of the day that is past. Accept of our grateful thanksgivings for thy goodness to us last night. As thou hast been the protector of our sleeping, be also the guide of our waking hours. Watch over us this day, to hallow our intercourse with each other, and direct us in all our ways. Cause thy blessing to rest upon ourselves, and all whom we ought to remember before thee. And hear us, not according to the imperfections of our requests, but thine own surpassing mercy and grace in Christ Jesus. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—LUKE II. 25-52.

God of all grace, thou uncreated light and infinite love, we approach thee this evening in the all-prevailing name of the Redeemer; and lifting up our hearts with our hands, would unite in venerating and adoring thy holy name. Who, Lord, can suitably declare thy transcendent excellencies? Who can abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness? All of us are living monuments of its surpassing riches. For though continually rebelling against thee, we are mercifully spared; yea, not only spared but indulged, and every day furnished with new proofs of thy parental tenderness and care. Lord, how precious are thy thoughts to usward; how great is the sum of them; if we should count them, they are more than can be numbered. In thee, we behold the author of all our blessings, whether spiritual or temporal; of all that distinguishes us as men, all that elevates us as rational and immortal beings, all that animates us with the hope of being assimilated to thyself as Christians. O may we recognize in all these gifts the giver. From the altar of grateful hearts, may the incense of thanksgiving and praise ascend to thee continually. And may we be as unwearied in our returns of love and obedience, as thou art in expressions of benignity and favor. Lord, we would adore thee, more especially, for the great and glorious salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; salvation meeting all our exigencies as ignorant, guilty,

depraved, weak and dying sinners; salvation proposing to us deliverance from eternal wrath, and mansions of everlasting glory in the world of the blessed. We lament that deep depravity of nature, which prompts sinners to make light of blessings so inestimable. We lament, that he, by whom they have been dearly purchased, instead of receiving a glad welcome from all, should, by many, be set up as a butt of contention and contempt. And we lament the extent to which each of ourselves is involved in the guilt of such conduct. Root, we beseech thee, out of our hearts, those unholy propensities in which it originates. O do thou subdue our pride, our self-sufficiency, our love of sin, and our hatred to the holy requirements of Jesus. Penetrate us with durable convictions of our utter destitution without a saving interest in Christ; and give us realizing discoveries of his redeeming grace and love; that, at once impelled by an urgent sense of need, and sweetly constrained by the attractions of sacred affection, we may receive him cordially, cleave to him steadfastly, surrender to him devotedly, all our faculties and affections, and live to glory in his cross, and show forth his praise. Give us to set him, the Lord, habitually before us; and depending upon the promised aids of his Spirit, to strengthen our weak resolutions, and, resting upon the hope of the future inheritance of his people to animate our languid endeavors, may we daily make progressive advances in our journey Zionward, and persevere, till triumphant over every discouragement, each of us appear there, to behold thine unveiled countenance forever. Of the brief season allotted for the journey, we behold another day now brought to a close. O forgive our sinful appropriation of so much of it to ourselves, in forgetfulness of thee, and our heavenly calling; and accept of our thanksgivings for its unmerited mercies. We commit ourselves, our dear friends and relatives, and all whom we ought to pray for, to thy fatherly protection during the silent watches of the night. And if it please thee to spare us to behold the light of a new day, may we rise with bodies refreshed, and our minds quickened with renewed zeal and vigor for thy service. Every day that we live, vouchsafe to us grace to make thy will our law, and thy glory our end. And when all our earthly days are ended, and the night of death seals our eyes, may our bodies, united to Christ, sleep in peace till the morning of the resurrection, and our souls, purified from every stain, join the spirits of the blessed in the land of everlasting life and light. Hear us, forgive us, sanctify and save us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XXI.

On the morning of a new day, marked by a continuation of thy loving-kindness toward us, both as individuals and a household, we would seek, Father of mercies, to present to thee, on the family altar,

our morning sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise; and with grateful hearts to bless thee, who causeth the out-goings of the morning, and the in-comings of the evening, to rejoice over our heads. Lord, how unwearied thy goodness! how numberless the mercies which thou art every hour and moment showering down upon our heads! The rich provider of our temporal necessities, thou art continuing to us health of body and soundness of mind, domestic peace and outward comfort; laying all nature under contribution for our benefit; and making earth and air, fire and water, winds and waves, the ministers of our wills. And thou dost not overlook our spiritual wants. Notwithstanding our sinful abuse of past advantages, we still enjoy thy word, thine ordinances, the ministry of reconciliation, our sabbaths and temples, and the rich promise of thy Holy Spirit, to make these blessed means effectual for our salvation. Truly it becomes us to acknowledge that goodness and mercy have hitherto followed us, and to call upon our souls and all that is within us, to bless and adore thee, the pregnant fountain of all our supplies. Alas! we have each of us cause to rejoice with trembling, for if we have received unnumbered mercies which demand grateful acknowledgment, we have also committed unnumbered offences, which call for penitent confession and humiliation. What good do we possess which we owe not to thee? yet which of all thy gifts that we have not employed as instruments of rebellion against thee? We are indeed a rebellious offspring. Neither kindness nor corrections have the effect of keeping us in the path of obedience. We daily trample upon thine authority; murmur secretly or openly against the dispensations of thy providence, abuse the temporal blessings of our lot, in the indulgence of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life; and allow our spiritual opportunities to pass away without showing any corresponding progress, either in the mortification of our sins, or the sanctification of our tempers and lives. We have cause therefore to adore thee for thy long-suffering patience and forbearance towards us, and to rejoice that we have not, as outcasts from thy mercy, been long ago consigned to the abodes of final retribution. O teach us to trace the sins which defile us to their true source, the bitter fountain of a heart which is enmity against thee, and seeks its happiness in things carnal and earthly. And may the humbling conviction, while it abases our pride, quicken our faith, and endear to us the cross and the grace of the Redeemer. O give us to go to him, that he may sweeten the bitter waters, by the healing virtues of his own blood, and that he may henceforth direct all their streams in a holy and heavenly course. By the power of his grace, do thou elevate our affections and spiritualize our desires, and suffer us no longer to indulge in the folly of seeking rest in this wilderness. May we be taught to make heavenly and spiritual blessings the supreme objects of our solicitude, and to estimate temporal advantages, chiefly as means for conducting us to these; so as in every step of our progress through the wilderness, to have the eye of faith fixed upon the land beyond it. O be thyself, we entreat thee, our pillar of light to guide us by the way. May we never seek to choose for ourselves, but submissively pitch our

tent or pursue our journey, as thou directest. If thy goodness indulge us, may we enjoy the comforts of our situation with gratitude and moderation, and see in every blessing that gladdens us thy liberal hand. If thy providence frown upon us, may we neither despise thy chastening, nor faint when we are rebuked, but submit with un murmuring acquiescence to all thine appointments, beholding in every stroke of the rod the hand of love that wields it. In whatever path thou conductest us, O let thine own Spirit guide, thine own arm protect, and thine own love as a covenant God abide with us, and when the discipline of the wilderness is at length brought to a close, do thou conduct us to the joys of the heavenly rest. Grant that our progress this day may bring us a day's journey nearer it, in meetness for its employments and its holy delights. And to thee, in Christ, be ever the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—LUKE III.

WE bless thee, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ, the unspeakable gift of thy love, and rejoice that in him all fulness dwells to meet the necessities of his people; fulness of merit to justify their persons, and fulness of grace to sanctify their natures. O may it be the privilege of each of us to receive of his fulness, and to present to ourselves and others solid evidences of the fact, in a steady and consistent exhibition of all the diversified graces of his Spirit. May that Spirit take up its habitual residence in our hearts, to perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle us; and may it ever operate there as a holy fire to cleanse, as a sacred light to direct, and as a well of water to refresh, and to spring up in streams of purity and blessedness, unto eternal life. Hasten, we beseech thee, the period of those copious outpourings of the Spirit, which will issue in the glories of the latter days of the church. Look in pity upon the perishing heathen; collect into the true fold the lost sheep of the house of Israel; overthrow the empire of the man of sin; heal the backslidings, and revive the first love of the churches of the reformation. Be more especially gracious to our beloved national Zion. O do thou repair all its breaches; strengthen all its bulwarks; increase the devotedness and add to the number of the watchmen upon its walls; prosper all its plans of usefulness, both at home and abroad; and multiply its provisions more and more, under the safeguard of thy protection, and with the securities of a happy national constitution, which recognizes thee as the governor among the nations, and Jesus Christ as head over all things to the church. Bless our native country in all its complicated interests, and all who belong to it, from the occupant of the throne to the humblest subject. Do thou diffuse the leaven of pure and undefiled religion through every class of the community, so that the fabric of national prosperity may rest secure upon the basis of national piety; that every habitation

of the land may be a Bethel, and all its inmates priests to offer thee spiritual sacrifices. Let thy especial blessing rest upon this habitation. May the ties of blood and of mutual dependence which unite us together, be sweetened and hallowed by the bonds of grace, that we may all be followers of thee as dear children, and members of the household of faith, and may at length arrive at our Father's house in heaven. In our progress thither do thou continue to us our comforts, sanctify to us our trials, strengthen us for our duties, and prepare us for every event that is before us. Be with us this night, and give us to retire to our beds with hearts grateful to thee for the unmerited mercies of the past day. Every day whilst we live, be thou our sun to enlighten, and our shield to protect us. And when death calls us hence, may it find us ready for our departure, and ripe for the grace that shall be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Hear, in heaven thy dwelling-place, these our humble supplications, and forgive and accept of us in Christ Jesus, the Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XXII.

ALMIGHTY, and ever-blessed God, we desire at this time to approach the family altar, and to present before thee our morning's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Thou art worthy to receive all power, and honor, and glory; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. Impress, we beseech thee, upon our minds, a deep reverence for thy character and perfections, and through faith in the infinite merits of thy Son, and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, may we be led to recognize and worship thee, as our reconciled God and Father. We give thee thanks for all the mercy and the grace thou hast conferred upon us, since we came into being. Thou art good—thou hast continually done us good, and great is thy faithfulness. Thou hast magnified thy love in not sparing thine own Son, but in giving him up to the death for us all, that we, through him, may be delivered from the guilt, and saved from the pollution, of sin. We confess before thee our numerous and highly aggravated iniquities, and acknowledge ourselves utterly unworthy of thy notice and regard. O that we were more deeply impressed with a sense of the evil nature and the ruinous tendency of sin; led to hate it with a perfect hatred, and to cherish a profounder sorrow, and a godlier contrition, when betrayed into the commission of it. Look not on us as we are in ourselves, ruined and self-condemned sinners, but regard us through the merits and mediation of the divine Redeemer, who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification; that being justified by faith, we may have peace with thee our God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Sanctify us through thy truth, thy word is truth: and by thy Holy Spirit may we be led in the way of life everlasting, and enabled to live to

the praise and the glory of him who suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps. Accept of us, O our God, in our united thanksgivings for the mercies of the last night, and this morning. Let thy presence and blessing accompany us this day. May grace, mercy, and peace, be multiplied on all our fellow-men. Bless our friends—forgive our enemies—reward our benefactors. May the lessons of thy word now read, make a deep and permanent impression on our minds. Suffer us not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners; but may we rather run in the way of thy commandments with enlargement of heart. Hear us when we thus call upon thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—LUKE IV.

WHEREWITHAL shall we come before thee, O Lord, or bow ourselves in thy presence, thou most high God? We will come unto thee in the name of Christ, making mention of his righteousness, and his only. For his sake, may our persons be acceptable in thy sight, and the lifting up of our hands as the incense of old. We confess and bewail before thee the original depravity of our hearts, the ungodliness of our lives, the waywardness of our affections, and the constant tendency we have to yield to the suggestions of the great adversary of our souls, and the allurments of a world lying in wickedness. We mourn over our past sins, and our present unworthiness. We have broken many vows; we have come short of many resolutions, we have misimproved time, and talent, and privilege; and, but for thy mercy and grace might, long ere this, have been given up to judicial blindness, or left to reap the fruit of our own doings in the place of torment. What reason then have we to admire and adore thy long-suffering patience, in that thou art sparing us in the land of the living and the place of hope; that thou art giving us thy word, so full of invitation and promise, and permitting us at all times, and in all circumstances, to address ourselves to thee as the hearer and the answerer of prayer. Glory be to God in the highest, that peace hath been proclaimed on earth, and good-will to the sons of men; that the offer of a full and a free salvation hath been made to the guiltiest of us all, through the blood of the cross, and that we are invited, as helpless and miserable sinners, to betake ourselves for pardon, and purity, and eternal life, to him who is able to save to the very uttermost; seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for the transgressors. Lord, we would believe, help thou our unbelief. May Christ be formed in our souls the hope of glory, and henceforth through thy Holy Spirit assisting us, may we be enabled to walk as the children of the light, glorifying thee in our bodies and spirits, which are thine. Subdue within us every unholiness and propensity. Sprinkle us with clean water, that we may be clean;

from all our idols and from all our filthiness, do thou cleanse us. May our lives, henceforth, be hid with Christ in God, so that when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, we may also appear with him in glory. We would look forward in the exercise of faith and hope, to the coming of our Lord and Saviour, when he shall appear without sin unto salvation; when they that are in their graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth to share in the splendors of his triumph, and so be forever with the Lord. Our hearts' desire and prayer for all men are, that they may be saved. Let pure and undefiled religion prosper and prevail. Pity and supply the wants of the poor. Spare the lives of the young and the useful. Prepare the dying for death, and teach the living to live humble and mindful of their latter end. We give thee thanks for thy Fatherly care and kindness this day. May we lie down in thy fear, and rise rejoicing in thy favor. Visit our friends with thy salvation—our enemies with thy forgiveness—our benefactors with thy beneficence. And unto thee, the Father, the Son, and the ever-blessed Spirit, one God, be glory forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XXIII.

O LORD our God, we desire to worship thee as the King of kings and Lord of lords, as dwelling in that light which is inaccessible and full of glory. Heaven is thy throne and the earth is thy footstool. Thou art here and everywhere present beholding the evil and the good. Thou compassest our path and our lying down, and art intimately acquainted with all our ways. Thou understandest the thoughts of our hearts afar off. We are but of yesterday—we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; but thou art the self-existent—the immutable—the eternal Jehovah, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Thou didst at first make man upright; but alas, he soon sought out many inventions, and by adding sin unto sin, we have rendered ourselves obnoxious to thy displeasure, and are unworthy of thy notice and regard. We have nothing of our own to plead in extenuation of our guilt, for, in our best services we offend and come short of thy glory; but we would plead the worthiness of the Lamb that was slain to take away the sin of the world. We would rest by faith on the merits of that perfect sacrifice which Christ offered up once for all, that he might make an atonement for a world lying in wickedness, and bring in an everlasting righteousness for the justification of all who believe. Lord, enable us henceforth to look to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. May the same mind be in us that was in him, who ever esteemed it as his meat and drink to do the will of his Father in heaven. And seeing it is not in man who walketh to direct his steps, we pray for the aid and direction of the Holy Spirit, that we may be led in the way of all truth, and enabled

to consecrate ourselves as living sacrifices unto God, holy and acceptable, which is our reasonable service. May we be found dying daily unto sin, and living unto righteousness; and from a deep sense of the many and invaluable privileges with which we are favored, may we strive to approve ourselves the faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus, by walking worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. Forbid that we should be among the number of those who know the truth, but who in practice deny it. Having named the name of Christ, may we be careful to depart from all iniquity, and live in strict conformity with the requirements of the gospel, and the example of Christ. We bless thee for all thy goodness and grace—for the mercies of the past night, and the enjoyments of this morning. We implore thy protection and blessing this day. Let thy Son's kingdom come, and let thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven. Regard, in thy mercy, our friends and all whom we hold dear. Comfort and sustain the sick and the dying, and grant that we may lead the lives of the righteous, that at last our death may be like theirs, and all we ask is in the name, and for the sake, of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—LUKE v.

O FATHER of mercies, and God of all consolation, God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and in him God of all grace and glory, we would again approach the footstool of thy throne, and address ourselves unto thee as unto the hearer and answerer of prayer. We kneel before thee as guilty and polluted sinners, unable to stand the scrutiny of thy law, or to offer anything like a ransom for the sin of our souls. We have been blessed with talents, but we have abused them, and with high spiritual privileges, but we have misimproved them. Our time has been too much occupied with the pursuits and the vanities of the world, whilst we have been little mindful of the value of the soul, and the realities of eternity. The dispensations of thy providence have often been of a nature well fitted to lead us to a devout recognition of thy supremacy, and of our own dependence upon thee, whilst the blessings of thy grace have been as eminently calculated to awaken our love and gratitude, and to induce us to live no longer to ourselves, but to him who loved us, and gave himself for us, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God. We have been unprofitable servants, and worse than unprofitable, and do therefore stand justly exposed to thy righteous indignation. But we cast ourselves on thy mercy and grace in Christ Jesus, humbly beseeching thee, for his sake, to be merciful to our unrighteousness, and to remember against us our iniquities no more forever. Rebuke us not in thy wrath; chasten us not in thy hot displeasure. Speak peace unto our souls, by giving us the well-grounded hope and the comfortable persuasion of being justified

freely by thy grace. May we know, in our blessed experience, what it is to have passed from death unto life, and may we be enabled to give evidence of the reality of our faith, by maintaining a conduct and conversation such as becometh the gospel. Through thy Holy Spirit, as the comforter and sanctifier of the church, may we be built up in faith and holiness unto salvation. May sin no longer have dominion over us, but being renewed in the spirit of our mind, may our affections be set on those things which are above, that when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, we may be found in peace, without spot and blameless, interested in his righteousness, and adorned with the gifts and graces of his Spirit, and made welcome to enter on that rest which remaineth for the people of God. We give thee thanks for all thy past care and kindness. Thou hast hitherto dealt mercifully with us in protecting us amid danger; in supporting us under trial; in comforting us in sorrow; in preserving us amid many temptations; and in sustaining our souls, by the consolations of thy word and Spirit, amid the severest bereavements with which thou hast been pleased to visit us. But whilst we would bless and magnify thy fatherly and affectionate providence, we would ever contemplate and adore, with devout gratitude and holy admiration, the riches of thy grace, as these have been made manifest through the blood of the cross. O that we were led to feel more powerfully the constraining influence of Christ's love, and enabled to live still more devoted to his cause and service. Let the knowledge of Christ and him crucified be imparted to all who are still dead in trespasses and sins. May the sick experience thy peculiar care, and may the dying depart in peace, their eyes having seen thy salvation. May we never forget that we are mortal creatures, because we are sinners, and through faith in the merits of our Redeemer may we be led to exclaim, O death, where is thy sting; O grave, where is thy victory! Watch over us this night. Raise us to the duties and enjoyments of a new day. May our time here be spent in thy fear and service, and at last may we dwell in thy house above, forever and ever. And all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—NUMBERS XXIV.

WE adore thee, O Lord, who art the living and the true God. Thou art eternal in thine existence, infinite in all thine attributes and perfections, righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. Although many nations are still in darkness, and dwell in the land of the shadow of death, yet ever blessed be God that the great light hath visited us. Thou who didst speak unto the fathers by the prophets, hast spoken unto us by thy Son from heaven. We would hail with pious gratitude, the appearance, in our day, of the Star out of Jacob, and rejoice exceedingly because we are gladdened by

the light of the Sun of righteousness. We give thee the praise, because we see and hear what many prophets and righteous men desired to see, but were not permitted. Glory be unto God in the highest, for peace on earth and good-will to men. But what are we, O Lord, that we should be so highly favored? Like Israel of old, we are by nature covenant-breakers, and, notwithstanding our peculiar privileges, we have too often been unprofitable servants. Thy name we have not duly revered, thy pure and holy laws we have broken, thy sabbaths we have not duly hallowed, thine altars and thine ordinances we have too often forsaken, and we are very guilty in thy sight. Amidst the cares of the world, we have too often forgotten thee, the God that made us, and lightly esteemed the rock of our salvation. Whilst enjoying thy bounty we have been ungrateful children; under thy threatenings and chastisements we have not been humbled, and have not diligently improved the dispensations of thy providence. The heart is deceitful; woe is unto us, for we have sinned. Enter not into judgment with us, O our God, but see our shield; look upon us in the face of thine anointed Son. Ever-blessed be thy name, because there is mercy with thee that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption that thou mayest be sought after. Blessed be God for his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Evermore, O God, give us this faith and this life. Open our eyes that we may behold the riches of thy mercy and the wonders of thy law. Give us an interest in the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, and give us the spirit of true repentance for all past sins. Let not sin henceforth obtain dominion over us, but restore to us the joys of thy salvation, and uphold us by thy free Spirit. Notwithstanding our unworthiness, thou hast opened our eyes, in favorable circumstances, to rejoice in the light of a new day. Thou art this morning covering our table with the bounties of thy providence, for which our hearts would praise the Lord. Give us, we earnestly beseech thee, a rich portion of that bread and water of life which came down from heaven, that our souls may never hunger and never thirst. Let a deep conviction of thy presence go with us this day, into the society of men, that when we engage in the ordinary duties of life, we may ever be mindful of our duty to our God. Let our thoughts and desires be pure, our words true, our actions just, and by thy Spirit enable us to have consciences void of offence towards God and man, and unto thy name be all the praise. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—LUKE VI. 1-26.

O LORD, thou art our God, and we will praise thee; our fathers' God, and we will exalt thy name together. Thou didst breathe into us the breath of life, and we became living creatures; the spirit of the Almighty has given us understanding; thy good providence has

hitherto protected us, and thy bounty has supplied our wants. Thou hast saved us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. Unto thee we have all our days been indebted for the blessings of health, friendship, and society; and for the rich spiritual consolations which have soothed our souls in the seasons of sorrow and affliction; but above all for Jesus Christ, thy best gift to men. When we meet together in his name, in the family, or the sanctuary, teach us humility and self-abasement; and teach us to worship thee, our God, in reverence and godly fear. O Lord God of truth, deliver us from all formality and hypocrisy, worldly corruption, and self-righteous presumption, and teach us to seek for acceptance with God only through the merits of Christ. When we read a portion of his word, O Lord, let the light of his Spirit shine into our understandings, to direct our meditations, and to enlarge our desires after heartfelt communion with God. May his word ever be a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. May it be in our comfortable experience the good seed in a good soil, always growing luxuriant and beautiful; and increasing in the peaceable fruits of righteousness, which are, through Jesus Christ, to the praise and glory of God. Let not our goodness be as the early cloud, and the morning dew, that passeth away; but let our path be the path of the just, that shineth brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. Give us the truths of thy word, in the demonstration of the Spirit, and of power, that they may lay open the deceitfulness of the heart, and minister to our edification and improvement; but above all, may lead our souls habitually unto God, the fountain of mercy, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. O God, let not the vain glories of this world withdraw our affections from the excellence of heavenly wisdom, and the holiness of thy perfections and laws. Let not the temptations of the devil, and the wicked example of the world, entice us to seek after sinful gratifications, and to say, Peace, peace, while there is no peace. Let not the trials and afflictions of this life overcome our patience and resignation to the will of God; but teach us to say, with thy people of old, We glory in tribulations also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope. In our intercourse with one another, teach us, O God, to love one another, as God, for Christ's sake, hath loved us. Teach us mutually, and as thy children, to cherish and practise meekness and patience, brotherly-kindness, forbearance and charity, that we may live together in unity, and may, by the grace of God, depart from all manner of iniquity. With grateful hearts for all thy goodness to us individually, and as a family, we would this evening, commend ourselves to the protection of the God of Israel, who neither slumbers nor sleeps. May thy kingdom come, O God, and thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven, and let all praise and glory be universally ascribed unto God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY IV.

TEACH us, O Lord, to lift up our souls with our voices, unto thee this morning, in heartfelt gratitude and praise, for thine unmerited and unceasing goodness. When we meet together in thy service, and approach thy pure and holy presence, may we never forget our own unworthiness, but join trembling with our mirth. Thou hast long preserved us as a family, and hast enriched our hearts with many blessings. Thou hast, in thy good providence, caused the outgoings of the evenings and the mornings to rejoice over us. By thy watchful care and bounty, thou hast preserved us during the past night, and hast invigorated the body with health and sleep, and inspired our souls with hope and trust in thee. Thou art day by day filling our mouths with food, and our hearts with gladness, confirming to us the gracious promise that our bread shall be given us, and our water shall be made sure. Around the family altar, we would this morning join in songs of thanksgiving and praise unto our God, for the peaceful repose of the past night, and for the mercies of the morning. Forbid, O our God, that we should be satisfied with the mere outward service of reading, meditation, and praise; but teach us, by thy Spirit, to offer unto thee the sacrifice of sincere and penitent hearts. In mercy deliver us, O Lord, from all hypocrisy and deceit in our religious duties, and from all falsehood and injustice in our worldly dealings. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil-speaking, be put away from us, with all malice. Save us from the deliberate omission of any duty, or the transgression of any law. Let our eyes this day be turned away from beholding vanity, and teach us to set a guard upon our thoughts, words, and actions, lest we grieve the Holy Spirit of God, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption. Command thy light and truth to shine into our hearts, that we may behold the wonders of thy law, and run in the ways of thy commandments. Let our prayers, which we humbly offer in the name, and through the merits of Christ, ascend unto God with acceptance, like the incense of the evening and morning sacrifice. Look not upon us as we are in nature and life, sinful and condemned; but see, O God, our shield, look upon us in the face of Jesus, thine anointed Son. By thy merciful covenant, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; O Lord, give us an interest, now and forever, in his all-prevailing intercession, and in the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world. We are not our own, but bought with a price, not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but by the blood of Christ; teach us then, O God, not to live any longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. We would embrace in our prayers, O thou Father of all! all our brethren of mankind. May the Redeemer's kingdom soon comprehend all the nations on the face of the earth. Open the eyes of thine ancient people, that they may see their Messiah in our blessed Lord and Saviour. May the fulness of the Gentiles soon be

the subjects of the kingdom of Christ. May Romish superstition soon be removed, and may the glorious light and liberty of the gospel soon gladden every nation, from the rising to the setting sun. Say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Keep not back; bring thy sons from afar, and thy daughters from the end of the earth. May we all grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: to whom, with thee, and the ever-blessed Spirit, be glory both now and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—LUKE VI. 27-49.

O LORD, we would ever count it as our highest honor and our chief happiness that we have access at all times to thy blessed presence. Although thou art far exalted above all principalities and powers, yet thou condescendest to regard us in compassion and mercy. What are we, O Lord, that thou shouldst be so very good and gracious unto us. Although thou didst create us innocent and happy, yet we soon forfeited these blessings, and even life itself, by sinning in Adam. The gold soon became dim, the fine gold was changed, and man, being in honor, did not abide. Our nature soon became corrupted, we forfeited innocence and peace, were banished from thy blessed presence, and have incurred thy righteous sentence of condemnation and death. Woe is unto us, for we have sinned. But, O Lord, we would forever celebrate thy mercy, because thou didst look in compassion on our fallen and sinful state, and in the fulness of time didst send the promised Deliverer. We would, in time and through eternity, celebrate thy praises, who so loved the world as to send thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life. O give us an interest, now and forever, in all that he hath done, and taught, and suffered for the honor of thy name and laws, for the prosperity of his church, and the eternal salvation of his people. We bear his name by baptism, God grant that we may breathe his Spirit, and bear his image in true piety to God, in benevolence and charity to men, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world. We are by nature ignorant; enlighten us, O Lord, by thy holy word. We are sinful and corrupted in heart and life; O Lord, purify us by the sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. Teach us to see the guilt and danger of sin, to mourn over past sins, as one that is in bitterness for a first-born and an only child; and in future help us, O God, to depart from all manner of iniquity, in thought, word, and deed. In youth and in age, in prosperity or adversity, may we remember thee, our God, and contentedly submit to thy holy will. Teach us to look to him who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. In the time of sorrow and affliction, lead our thoughts to him who was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and when worldly mis-

fortunes befall us, may we, with submission to thy holy will, look to him who had not where to lay his head Under family bereavements, teach us to say, with pious resignation, The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, and blessed be the name of the Lord; and to seek hope, consolation, and fortitude from him who is the resurrection and the life. Teach us to know that thou causest all things to work together for the good of them that love thee, and are the called according to thy purpose. May love for our ever-blessed Redeemer ever glow in our hearts, and may we ever cherish reverence for his authority, and dutiful obedience to his laws and ordinances. May we be all of one mind in his service, by treasuring up his precepts in our hearts, by believing his doctrines to the salvation of our souls, and by living habitually under the influence of one faith, one hope, and one baptism. May we ever cause our light so to shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father who is in heaven; and may we at last obtain the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.



Thirteenth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM XXXVIII.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we would worship and bow down, and kneel before thee, our maker. May the feelings of our souls correspond, in some measure, to the lowly attitude of our bodies; and with deep prostration of spirit, with reverence and godly fear, may we now wait upon thee. Thou, O Lord, art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; sin is the abominable thing which thou hatest. And yet we, alas, are sinners before thee exceedingly. We have gone astray from thee ever since we were born. We have followed the devices and desires of our wicked hearts. We have done those things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and times and ways without number, in thought, word, and deed, we have offended against thy holy law. Our iniquities are gone over our head; as a heavy burden they are too heavy for us. Yet to whom can we wretched sinners repair but unto thyself, the God of love and grace, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus. To us belongeth confusion of face, as at this day; to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him. God be merciful to us sinners! Lead us by faith to the blood of sprinkling, that our iniquity may be taken away, and our sin purged.

Shed down upon us the influences of the Holy Ghost to enlighten our understandings, to renew our wills, to refine and elevate our affections, and to sanctify and strengthen us for all holy obedience. Destroy in us the love of sin; embitter to us its fruits; save us from its dominion. In thee, O Lord, do we hope; forsake us not. O our God, be not far from us; make haste to help us, O Lord, our salvation. We thank thee, O thou preserver of men, that in mercy thou hast spared us to see another sabbath. May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's day. May we be very anxious to improve our religious privileges, and have grace given us to serve thee this day in thine ordinances without distraction. Carry us up to thy holy mountain, and make us joyful in thy house of prayer. Save, we beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, we beseech thee, send now prosperity. Be with thy ministering servant, our pastor, in declaring thy message, and grant that among us, and in all the churches, the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, in the conversion of sinners and the edification of saints. Have compassion on the afflicted; be to them a little sanctuary, and to all who may, in thy providence, be this day prevented, by necessary causes, from appearing in the public assembly. Let thy gracious presence and the consolations of thy love convert the chamber of sickness and the house of mourning into the house of God and the gate of heaven. Save thy people, O Lord, and bless thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up forever. Hear, O Lord, in heaven, these our humble supplications; accept our persons, and forgive our sins, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS XXXIX. XL.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all grace, we come before thee, in the name of thy beloved Son, Christ Jesus, in whom thou art ever well pleased; and we beseech thee, for his sake, to take away all our iniquity and receive us graciously. Unto thee, whose we are, and whom we are bound to serve, we would present, through Christ, the homage of our bodies and spirits, and the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to thy holy name. Many, O Lord our God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if we would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. But we would, in an especial manner, desire to celebrate the riches of thy mercy, and the freeness of thy grace, in thy kindness towards sinners by Christ Jesus. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift: and thanks be unto Christ, the Son of God, who so readily and cheerfully consented to be given. A body thou didst prepare for him, that in it he might fulfil the law which we have broken, and suffer the penalty which our sins deserve; that he might make an end of sin-offering, and bring in an everlasting righteousness, and

thus lay a sure and immovable fountain of hope to every returning sinner. Lord, upon that foundation we would now build, in that finished salvation we would rejoice. Clothe us with his pure righteousness; wash us in his atoning blood; renew us after his heavenly image; subdue us to his entire control; uphold us by his free Spirit; may Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, may Christ be formed in us the hope of glory. We are poor and needy; think upon us, O our God, for good. Thou art our help and our deliverer; make no tarrying, O our God. We have enjoyed, through thy long-suffering forbearance, another day of the Son of man. Impress on our minds a sense of our accountability for the right improvement of the seasons and opportunities with which we are now favored, and which will soon come to a close. Lord, make us to know our end, and the measure of our days, what it is, that we may know how frail we are. Teach us to cultivate the spirit of pilgrims and strangers here, that we may duly regulate our tempers, and order aright our conversation, that in prosperity we may be humble, and in adversity resigned. Follow with thy rich and efficacious blessing, all the services of this holy sabbath among us, and throughout the world. Let thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Let all those that seek thee, rejoice and be glad in thee; let such as love thy salvation, say continually, The Lord be magnified. Dwell with us as a family. May our hearts be more and more knit together in Christian love; and may our united exercises and enjoyments on thy sabbaths below, prepare us for spending together the glorious sabbaths of eternity. And now, Lord, what wait we for? Our hope is in thee; deliver us from all our transgressions, and hear us in our prayers, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY V.

O THOU that dwellest in the heavens, we lift up our souls to thee. We would approach thee with that humility, which is founded on a sense of thy majesty and our meanness, thy purity and our pollution; but we would also come in that spirit of holy freedom, which is prompted by an apprehension of thy mercy and love in Christ Jesus. Enable us to form some adequate conception of thy glorious character, and thy wondrous ways. Thou art seated on a throne that is high and lifted up; thou wieldest the sceptre of universal empire; all creatures are in thy hand, all events are at thy disposal. Thou art the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Thou only hast immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen. We bless thee, O Lord, for the manifestation thou hast been pleased to give of thyself, in the works of thy creation, and the dispensations of thy providence. Thine eternal power and Godhead may be

clearly seen from the things which thou hast made ; and never hast thou left thyself without witness to thy creatures here below, in that thou hast done them good, and given them rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling their mouths with food and their hearts with gladness. But we would specially thank thee, O God, on our own behalf, that in addition to all this, thou hast blessed us with the brighter and fuller discoveries of thy holy word. Thou didst make known thy ways to Moses, thine acts unto the children of Israel. To them thou showedest thy glory, and thy greatness ; to them the voice of the living God spake out of the midst of the fire, and yet they lived. We rejoice before thee, O Lord, that unto us thou speakest, not from Mount Sinai, but from Mount Zion ; not in the voice of terror, but in accents of love and peace. O may we see, that we refuse not him that speaketh to us from heaven ! He who despised Moses' law, died without mercy under two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment shall we be thought worthy, if we tread under foot the Son of God, and do despite unto the Spirit of grace ? Lord ! turn us to repentance. Lord ! save us by thy power. O ! that there were such a heart in us, that we might fear thee and keep thy commandments always, not turning aside to the right hand or to the left ; that it might be well with us, and with our children forever. Look thou upon us, and be merciful unto us, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name. Order our steps in thy word, and let not any iniquity have dominion over us. Remember us, O Lord, with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people ; O visit us with thy salvation : that we may see the good of thy chosen, that we may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that we may glory with thine inheritance. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us according as we hope in thee. Thou hast graciously spared us through another night, and hast brought us to see the light and to enjoy the comforts of this new day. We laid ourselves down and slept ; we awaked, for the Lord sustained us. To thy guardian care and holy keeping, we anew commit ourselves and all our concerns through this day. Prepare us for its duties ; preserve us from its dangers. May we be in the fear of the Lord all the day long ; and everywhere, and in all circumstances, may we act and endure as seeing thee, who art invisible. Let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Bless us in the prosecution of our respective callings and employments ; bless us in our basket and in our store ; bless us in our going out and in our coming in. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us ; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it, through Christ Jesus the Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—LUKE VII. 1-23.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father ! we adore thee as the king eternal, immortal, invisible ; the only living, and true, and wise

God! How excellent is thy name in all the earth; thou hast set thy glory above the heavens, when we consider these heavens, the work of thy fingers, the sun, the moon, and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him? We alas! are forgetful of thee, but thou art never unmindful of us; we are too often weary of thy gentle yoke, but thou never weariest in doing us good. Thou art the God of our life, and the length of our days. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over us. Thou loadest us with benefits; thou crownest us with loving-kindnesses; thou givest us all things richly to enjoy. Bless the Lord, O our souls! and all that is within us bless his holy name. May our long and ample experience of thy providential bounty, encourage us to seek of thee the richer and more enduring blessings of thy grace. Grant us, we beseech thee, thy Holy Spirit, to convince us of our need of a Saviour, and to show us the gracious adaptation of the gospel method, to our characters and circumstances as ignorant, guilty, depraved, and dying creatures. Lord, increase our faith in Christ thy Son, and may he be made of thee to us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. We rejoice in the many recorded instances of his power and love, while we tabernacled in our flesh; and we believe that he is able and willing to save unto the uttermost all that come unto thee by him, seeing that he once died for sin, and ever liveth to make intercession for sinners. Lord Jesus! to whom can we go but unto thee? We are blind, open thou our eyes. We are deaf, open thou our ears. We are diseased and dying, say in a word, and we shall be healed, and arise to life eternal. In the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, good Lord, deliver us! Preserve us from that pride which was not made for man; adorn us with a meek and quiet spirit. Bless us as a family. May we live together in love; bearing each other's burdens, and bearing with each other's infirmities; subduing our tempers, and regulating our tongues. May the peace of God rule in our hearts, and whatever may be the relation in which we stand to one another, may the glory of God be ever our end and aim in every domestic duty. May every friend of ours be a friend of Christ, and an heir of heaven. Have compassion on the afflicted; soothe and sustain the bereaved; succor the tempted; heal the broken-hearted; save the dying. Be the father of the fatherless, the husband of the widow, the shield of the stranger, the refuge of the destitute, the avenger of the oppressed. Bless abundantly thy church; enlarge its borders, and increase its prosperity. And now into thy hands we this night commend our bodies and spirits; do thou redeem us, O Jehovah, God of truth. Grant unto us the sleep thou hast promised to thy beloved; and, if thou art pleased to spare us to another day, may we be raised up for its duties, invigorated and refreshed. Mercifully forgive our sins, and hear our supplications, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY VIII.

O LORD, from whom we have our being, and in whom we have our well-being, we desire to acknowledge thee as the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Thy judgments are indeed unsearchable, and thy ways past our finding out. But although thou hast made justice and judgment the habitation of thy throne, thou art declaring thyself to us as a God of mercy. Thou art our Father and our God, and the Rock of our salvation. We bless thee that thou hast spoken unto us the word of salvation by thy Son, Jesus Christ, whom thou hast appointed heir of all things, through whom, and in whom, we are raised to the hope of an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading, with thee, our God, in heaven. In this indeed is love; O grant that the sense of thy goodness, and our consciousness of guilt, may lead us to repentance which needeth not to be repented of. May the love of God constrain us to do his holy will, rightly judging that if one died for all, then were all dead, and that he died that they who live might live no more unto themselves, but unto him who died and rose again, that his redeemed might be heirs of glory. We confess before thee our sins; they are more than can be numbered, and highly aggravated: forgive our sins, for the sake of him in whom thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. Through him do thou accept of us graciously; in him do thou love us freely. Strengthen our faith, confirm our love, establish us unto every good thought, and word, and work. Create in us a clean heart, O God; renew a right spirit within us. Impart to us more abundantly of the influences of thy Holy Spirit. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness in Christ Jesus; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions with his atoning blood, and with the washing of regeneration, by the Spirit of all grace. Impress upon our hearts the warnings, realize to our souls the promises, of thine inspired word. Accept of our thanks for thy care of us during the past night, for thy goodness in permitting us to see the light of another day in the land of the living, and in the place of hope. Fit and prepare us for the duties of this day and of life; prepare us for death, for judgment, and for eternity. For us to live, may it be Christ; for us to die, may it prove great gain; and all that we ask is in the name, and for the sake, of our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—LUKE VII. 24-50.

HEAVENLY Father, at the close of another day we bow down before thee, our creator, our preserver, our bountiful benefactor. Thy mercies are new to us every morning, thy faithfulness and thy lov-

ing-kindness extend over us every night; we continually experience that thou, the Lord, art very gracious. But while we acknowledge thy general providence, which is over all thy works, and express our gratitude for what, under thy special providence, we ourselves have experienced of protection and temporal comfort, we would not forget especially to bless thee for thy best gift, Christ Jesus the Saviour. We desire to bless thee for his atoning sacrifice, for his continual intercession, for his Holy Spirit. We bless thee for the abundant testimony given to him as the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world, for his blessed doctrine, for his pure precepts, for his holy life and perfect example. Give us grace, O Lord, to profit by our high privilege. Strengthen our faith, that we may lay hold of Christ and of his righteousness for our justification. Great is our sin, heavy our debt, grievous our transgression, but thy mercy is unbounded. With thee there is mercy; with our God is plenteous redemption. Our souls would therefore bless and magnify the Lord, our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour, who forgiveth all our iniquities, who healeth all our diseases, who redeemeth our lives from destruction, who crowneth us with loving-kindnesses and tender mercies. Enable us to realize more fully the sense of thy pardoning mercy in Christ Jesus, that the consciousness of our obligation, in all its magnitude, may inspire us with deeper gratitude and more intense love to thee, our great Benefactor. Let not the leaven of pharisaical pride be found in our hearts; take away from us all root of uncharitableness; enable us to come unto thee by that new and living way which thou hast appointed; to cast our cares upon the Lord, who careth for us, that we may rejoice in him who is the God of our salvation. Spread thy covering wings beneath and around us during the silent watches of this coming night, that we may sleep in safety. Give us to awake to the light of a new day, in circumstances of health and comfort; prepare us for its trials, its duties, its events. Guide us through life, comfort us at the hour of death, and be our portion throughout the endless ages of eternity, for the Lord our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY IX.

ALMIGHTY, most gracious, and ever-blessed God, thine we are, and on thee do we depend for the comforts of this present life, and for the joys of eternity. We were early cast upon thy care; thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, but we are deeply conscious, and with shame and confusion of face must acknowledge, that we have proved ungrateful for thy goodness, and unworthy of thy love. Times and ways without number have we sinned against thee, doing the things that we ought not to have done, and neglecting our known duty. It is because thy compassions fail not, that we are not consumed, it is because thou hast no pleasure in the death of

sinner that thou art still addressing to us the exhortation and remonstrance, Turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die? O Lord, do thou turn us, and we shall be turned; lead us to the smitten Rock, that our souls may be refreshed with the waters of salvation. Give us the bread of life, to sustain us during our pilgrimage; in the hour of trial, strengthen thou our faith, and confirm our patience, that we may not provoke thee by sinful murmurings; write thy law upon our hearts, that we may keep it in constant remembrance; mortify our carnal affections, subdue our rebellious passions, enable us to fight the good fight of faith, and give unto us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Sanctify to us all the dispensations of thy providence; enable us, by reflecting upon our past experience, to distrust ourselves, and to put our confidence in thee, who alone canst deliver us from evil, and work in us, both to will and to do that which is well-pleasing in thy sight, and profitable to our own souls. Enable us to finish our pilgrimage rejoicing; give us an easy passage over the Jordan of death, and an entrance abundantly into the land of Christian promise, the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, unto whom, with thee, the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, we desire to ascribe all honor, and glory, and blessing, and praise, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—LUKE VIII. 1-25.

O LORD, we desire to lift up our eyes to that place where thine honor dwelleth, and to worship thee, the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only living, wise, and true God. Thou hast never left thyself without a witness to the children of men; the heavens declare thy glory, and the earth is full of thy goodness. But we desire to bless thee especially for that still clearer and more gracious manifestation of thyself, which thou hast made to us in him who is the brightness of the Father's glory, the express image of his person, and in whom we are privileged to contemplate thee as our gracious and reconciled Father. For his sake, regard us, we beseech thee, not as we are in ourselves, polluted with sin, and prone to evil, but as justified through his blood, sanctified through his Spirit, and partakers of his righteousness. As the redeemed of the Lord Jesus, may we be enabled to evidence our affection for his person, by our attachment to his service, our obedience to his law, our love of the brethren. Enable us to walk in thy statutes, as children of the light and of the day, not as fools, but as wise. When we meditate upon thy law, may we be taught of the Holy Spirit, and instructed unto all saving knowledge. Work thou in us that preparation of heart necessary to the proper reception of thy word, that as good seed, sown in a good soil, it may take root and spring up, refreshed by the dews of thy grace, and matured under the benign influence of the Sun of righteousness, that it bear fruit according to the measure

of thy grace, even an hundred-fold. Take away from us the stony heart of unbelief; work in us deep and abiding impressions of gospel truth, that our faith fail not in the day of temptation; let neither the cares of the world nor its pleasures, occupy that place in our hearts which religion justly claims; but do thou enable us to keep our hearts with all diligence, seeing that out of the heart are the issues of life. We desire to place our confidence upon the Lord Jesus Christ, by faith in his name. Enable us to exercise this faith constantly, that we may have our Christian hope as an anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast. We commit ourselves to thy gracious protection during this night, and through life. Never leave us, never forsake us; and when thy good pleasure in us is accomplished with regard to this life, mercifully receive us into thy rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY X.

O THOU that hearest and answerest prayer, Jehovah, God of truth, attend to the voice of our supplication this morning, and turn not away our prayer from thee, nor thy mercy from us. In the all-prevailing name of him whom thou hearest always, we desire to pray in the Spirit. We know not well how to pray, or what to ask for as we ought, but may the Spirit himself help our infirmities. O that we may have suitable impressions of thy nature and character, thy glory and majesty, thy mercy and grace. We confess, that by nature and practice we are children of wrath, because we are children of disobedience, even as others. If by thy free grace a saving change has been begun in us, do thou carry it on and perform the good work, until the day of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that our progress in knowledge and in holiness, has not corresponded to the favorable circumstances in which we have been placed for moral and spiritual advancement. We have reason to blush and be ashamed before thee, on account of our transgressions, and more and more to cry for pardoning mercy and sanctifying grace. We, alas! are too often unfaithful servants to thee, our divine Master, undutiful children to our heavenly Father, unthankful to our best Friend, and ungrateful to our best benefactor, and unworthy subjects to thee, the Sovereign of the universe. We cast ourselves on thy mercy and grace, revealed through Jesus Christ. For his sake pardon our multiplied offences, and render us more obedient in the time to come. We thank thee for sending him as our Redeemer; one who is mighty to save unto the uttermost. We bless thee for all that he did, and taught, and suffered for our salvation; for all that he is now doing, and is yet to perform. We desire to rely on his mediation—his finished work of atonement, his resurrection, ascension, and intercession at thy right hand. Do thou graciously enable us to discern more of his beauty, excellence, and suitableness as a Saviour to us;

to rely more implicitly on his merits,—to believe more firmly in his doctrines—to obey his precepts—to be conformed to his image, submissive to his will, and assimilated to his example. We thank thee for thy mercies to us during the night, for the refreshing repose thou hast vouchsafed to us, invigorating us for the duties of the day. We bless thee, that we are yet in the land of the living, and in the place of hope, and in so comfortable circumstances. Thou hast made the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over us. Blessed be the God of our salvation, for all his mercies to us. This day be at our right hand, and we shall not be moved. Keep us from evil, that it may not grieve us; save us from danger, that it may not injure us. May we set the Lord before us, and whatsoever we do, whether we eat or drink, may we do all to thy glory and praise. May no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth, but that which is good, to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. May we walk as children of the light and of the day, adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. Be gracious to the afflicted, send help from trouble, for vain is the help of man. Be near to them who are near to death. When flesh and heart have begun to faint and fail, be thou the strength of their heart, and their portion forever. Grant them victory over death and the grave, and make them more than conquerors through him that loved us. Hear our prayers, pardon all our sins, and grant us the answer of peace, and all needful blessings, through Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—LUKE VIII. 26-56.

FATHER of mercies and God of all consolation, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we desire at this time to draw near to thee, the only true God, through the one Mediator, and by the one Spirit. May we never approach thee with wandering minds, or with hearts not rightly impressed, but always with true hearts, in full assurance of faith. We worship thee as the being possessed of every possible perfection and excellence. The glories of thy nature and the riches of thy grace infinitely transcend the comprehension of the most exalted creatures in the universe. We acknowledge that we are involved in the apostasy of our first parents, and that we have often given evidence of the natural depravity of the human heart, by our violations of thy commandments. Though thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, we have too often acted as rebels against thee. Which of thy laws have we not broken? We have sinned against thee in thought and in feeling, in word and in action, wasted precious time, misimproved our advantages, and not duly occupied our talents. We would take with us words, and say, Take away our iniquity, and receive us graciously, and love us freely. Enable us to hate sin, forsake every false and wicked way, and to walk steadfastly in the path of the just. Make us thankful, keep us

humble, excite us to be watchful, and incline us to be more spiritually-minded. Enlighten our minds, purify our hearts, subdue our passions, elevate our affections. Sanctify us wholly in soul, body, and spirit. Lord, increase our faith, strengthen our love, invigorate our hopes, quicken our zeal in thy service, and fill us with all joy and peace in believing. Blessed be thy great name for all thy mercies, but especially for Jesus Christ, thine unspeakable gift. We thank thee that thou sparedst not thine own Son, but freely gavest him for us, and that with him, also, thou wilt freely give thy people all things. We desire to acknowledge, with gratitude, thy kindness to us this day, for supplying our wants, shielding us from danger, watching over us, keeping us in our out-going and in-coming, and crowning us with loving-kindness and with tender mercies. Forgive whatever thy pure and holy eye may have seen to be wrong in our minds, our hearts, our language, or our conduct, this day. We desire to commit ourselves to thy care and keeping during the silent watches of the night. Watch thou over us, when all our senses shall be sealed in sleep, and we exposed to dangers which we could neither foresee nor prevent. If it be thy holy will, grant us that repose which we think necessary to recruit our minds and our bodies after the labors of the day that is passed; or if debarred from natural rest, may we enjoy spiritual rest in the Lord, in thy character, perfections, and promises, and the hope of at length entering into thy glorious rest in a better world. May we remember thee on our bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Accept of thanks for every blessing; supply every want, forgive every sin, for all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY XI.

HEAVENLY Father, we adore thee as the eternal God, the creator, preserver, and governor of the universe; upholding all things by the word of thy power. We worship thee as the omniscient and omnipresent God. Thou art eternal in thine existence, unchangeable in thy nature, and everlasting in thy duration. What reason have we to prostrate ourselves in the dust before thee! We are frail and sinful dust and ashes. We are but of yesterday and know nothing, our foundation is in the dust, we dwell in cottages of clay, and are crushed before the moth, and our sins are as a thick cloud gone over our heads. We confess that our transgressions are multiplied and heinous, aggravated by our relation to thee as our creator and preserver, our best friend and bountiful benefactor; by the benefits thou hast conferred, the professions we have made, the privileges we have enjoyed, the precepts and the promises, the admonitions and warnings of thy holy word. Most merciful God, look on us in pity, and for the sake of him who came into the world to save sinners, deliver us from the love and the power, the guilt and pollu-

tion of all sin. We pray that our souls may be purified by the power of thy Holy Spirit in the blood of Christ, that cleanseth from all iniquity. O Lord, subdue remaining depravity within us, and incline our hearts to keep thy law. Dispose and enable us, by thy grace, to be more faithful to thee, more diligent in duty, more vigilant and circumspect, more steadfast and immovable, more abounding in the work of the Lord. May we feel more strongly our dependence on thee, and our need of thy help; more ardently desiring, and more earnestly seeking the aids of thy Spirit to confirm and strengthen all the principles of the divine life in our souls. Enable us to be more aware of the plagues of our own heart, to watch more carefully, and strive more vigorously against the operation of indwelling corruption, the allurements of the world, and the snares of our grand adversary. May the Holy Spirit render more effectual to us the truths of thy blessed word. May we more forcibly perceive their importance, feel their power, and live under their influence. O grant that the word of Christ may dwell in us richly, and that we may be strengthened with all might by the Spirit in the inner man. What shall we render to the Lord for all his goodness to us? Thanks to thy name for all thy mercies, temporal and spiritual, to us as a family and as individuals. O that we may truly feel thankful in our hearts, whilst we unite in expressions of gratitude to thee for thy kindness to us, during the night that has passed. We laid us down in peace, slept in quietness, and awaked in health, because thou hast sustained us. We render thanks to thee for continuing us in existence, in health of body and soundness of mind, and in the enjoyment of our individual and family comforts. Be with each of us during this day. Help us to cherish a realizing sense of thy presence, of our dependence on, and responsibility to, thee. Keep us in the fear of thee, the Lord, all the day; and in whatever situation we may be placed, may we think, and feel, and speak, and act as seeing thee who art invisible. May we be continued in life and health, and each of us be able and willing, after the close of the day, to meet around the family altar, to present the evening sacrifice of prayer and praise. Forgive us in mercy all our sins, and accept of us and our services, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—LUKE IX. 1-27.

O LORD our God, thou art the king eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise, and true, and living God. Thy wisdom is unsearchable, and thy ways past finding out. Thou rulest in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of this world. Thou rulest in the raging of the sea, and in the tumults of the people. Spotless holiness, and immutable truth, inflexible justice, and inviolable faithfulness, the richest mercy and grace, infinite love, unbounded goodness, the tenderest compassions, and every glorious attri-

bute, are thine. Thou art self-existent, and absolutely independent of all thy creatures. We come not to inform thee of our wants, as if thou wert unacquainted with them; to remind thee, as if forgetful; or to persuade thee, as if thou wert unwilling to supply them; but we would humbly and gladly acknowledge our own helplessness, insufficiency, and entire dependence on thee; and be more grateful to our heavenly Benefactor, by whom our wants are all supplied. How unsuitably have we requited thee for all thy benefits, and, how utterly unworthy of the least of all thy mercies! How prone to overlook their number and value! We have been too apt to be forgetful of thee and thy great mercies, and when comforts have been removed on which our hearts were set, or benefits withheld which we thought essentially necessary to our enjoyment, we have been disposed to feel as if dissatisfied or displeased with thee and thy dispensations. O God, pity, and pardon, and purify us in the blood of our Redeemer. By thy blessed Spirit correct our errors and faults, and form in us more of the temper and disposition of thine adopted children. Make us to feel and to act more as it becomes such as are the objects of thy redeeming love, the subjects of thy saving grace, and the heirs of thine everlasting kingdom. Fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power. May we diligently be followers of them who, through faith and patience, are now inheriting the promises, being rendered faithful unto the death, so that unto us may be given the crown of life. Give us grace to fit us for fighting the good fight, finishing our course, and keeping the faith. What thanks do we owe thee for thy kind dealings to us as a family! It is because we have obtained help from God, that we, who are now before thee, continue till this hour. O thou who declaredst thyself to be the God of all the families of Israel, be our God and portion for evermore. Make us more and more a holy and a happy family, and train us up for the great family in heaven. Send, O Lord, the light of the gospel to the benighted regions of heathen ignorance and idolatry. May the Sun of righteousness arise and shine on them with healing in his wings. Give success to the gospel wherever it is preached, and bless the efforts made to spread it more widely at home and abroad. O thou Shepherd of Israel who never slumberest nor sleepest, protect us this night. May no plague come near our dwelling. May we obtain refreshing sleep, under divine protection, and with the light of the returning day, enjoy the light of our heavenly Father's countenance lifted upon us. Grant us the blessings best suited to us, forgive all our iniquities, and accept of us in Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY XVIII.

WE adore and bless thee, O Almighty God, as the Most High over all the earth, who hast created all things by thy power, and who orderest all events by thy providence. In thee alone it is that

we do live, and move, and have our being. Our times, O Lord, are wholly with thee; and all that we have here is at thy sovereign disposal. We bless thy great and holy name, that thou hast not left us to sit in darkness, without hope, and without God in this world, but hast graciously made the day-spring from on high to visit us, to guide our feet in the way of life and peace. We give thee humble thanks and praise that thou hast cast our earthly lot in a land of Christian light, and that we have thy holy word in our hands to show us what is good, and what thou the Lord requirest of us. We give praise for the knowledge of him who is the way, the truth, and the life, and through whom thou art inviting us to come unto thee, for rest and peace to our souls forever. Help us, O our God, to come unto thee, through faith in his name, both for mercy to pardon, and for grace to help in every time of need. Grant us, for his sake, the forgiveness of all our sins, and peace with thee, our God, at all times. Help us to acknowledge thy hand, ordering all things here concerning us, and to yield ourselves, and all that belongeth to us, to thy gracious disposal, that thy will may be done in us on earth, as it is done in heaven. Knowing thy great loving-kindness through the Redeemer, may we be enabled to rest persuaded, that with him thou wilt give us all things needful for our true good, and that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Help us to walk this day as seeing thee who art invisible, and to sanctify thee, the Lord God, in our hearts. Grant us, in all our duties, the direction of that wisdom which cometh down from above, and the protection of thy good providence in all our ways. Prosper us in our way, as thou seest to be truly for our good, and provide for all our necessities out of the riches of thy bounty. Teach us to rest contented in thy holy will concerning us, and dispose us to be laboring not merely for the meat which perisheth, but for that also which endureth unto life everlasting. Hear us, O Lord, and accept us, and answer us, and all that we do ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—LUKE IX. 28-62.

O ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we adore and worship thee as the great Father of lights, from whom alone cometh down every good and every perfect gift. We bless thy great and holy name for all thy good gifts to us from day to day, and, above all, for thine unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ the righteous. We give thanks to thee, O our God, who in time past didst speak unto men by the prophets, that, in these latter days, thou hast spoken unto us by thine own Son, the appointed heir of all things, and that thou art in him reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. We rejoice, O Lord, to know that we have in him a merciful and faithful high priest, who hath suffered for us, the just

for the unjust, and who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Help us to welcome him as our Redeemer, as thou hast graciously provided; and grant us an interest in all his heavenly blessings. Grant us, for his sake, the forgiveness of all our sins, and peace with thee, our God, at all times, and patience and perseverance in thy fear to the end of our lives. Help us to be daily learning of him who was meek and lowly in heart, and to be so growing in his likeness, as that we may finally be made meet for his presence. Help us, under the influence of this blessed hope, to bear patiently all the trials of the present time, and to serve thee, the Lord, with all humility of mind and fervency of spirit. Help us to glorify thee, our heavenly Father, and to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, in all the duties which belong to us in our respective places and relations. And, when we shall have answered thy purposes with us here on earth, may we be prepared, by thy grace, for seeing our Lord as he is, beholding his glory and partaking of his joy. We give thanks and praise, O Lord, for the mercies of the day that is past. We pray for thy gracious protection during the returning hours of rest. May we lie down in peace, and sleep in safety, and rise in health, thou, the Lord, sustaining us. May thy blessing rest upon our respective relations and friends everywhere. May they be taken under thy care at all times. May they be kept in thy fear in all their ways. May they be blessed with thy favor, which is better than life. May they be made meet at length for joining the spirits of just men made perfect, in thy presence. May all flesh see thy salvation, and the whole earth be filled with thy glory. May these, the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts, be accepted by thee, through Jesus Christ, our Strength and Redeemer. Amen.

Fourteenth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS XLI. XLII.

THOU art worthy, O Lord, to receive all honor, and blessing, and praise; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. Thou, O Lord, hast made us, and not we ourselves; thou hast hitherto upheld our souls in life, and provided us with all things pertaining unto life and godliness. We bless and praise thy holy name that thou hast brought us to the light of another day of the Son of man in peace, and blessed us with so many means and opportunities of growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would welcome him as our merciful high-priest who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and

who, amidst all the trials and changes of time, remains to us the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. We would joy in thee, our God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the atonement. Blessed be he who cometh in the name of the Lord to save us. May we be in the Spirit on this thy day; and be enabled duly to keep thy sabbaths, and to reverence thy sanctuaries. May we be glad always when it is said to us, Let us go up to the house of the Lord; and may we be enabled to worship thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth, as thou desirest to be worshipped. We beseech thee, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, to shine in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of thee, our God, in the face of Jesus Christ. May we be filled with the knowledge of thy will through him, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. And may we walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work. May we be comforted by the consideration of his power and willingness to save; and may we taste the peace of them that love thy law. Be merciful unto us, O Lord, and heal our souls, for we have sinned against thee. Command thy loving-kindness in the day-time; and in the night may our song be unto thee, and our prayer unto the God of our life. May we taste, this day, the blessedness of the man whom thou choosest and causest to approach unto thee. May we be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. May thy word have free course and be glorified. May thy priests be clothed with salvation, and thy saints shout aloud for joy. May all thy churches be multiplied and edified, walking in the fear of God, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost. And may the period promised in thy word be hastened, when all shall know thee, from the least unto the greatest, and all the kingdoms of this world shall be made the kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ. Do for us, O Lord, above all that we ask or think; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS XLIII. XLIV.

WE would now desire, most gracious God, to lift our souls to thee in prayer. We beseech thee, for the Redeemer's sake, to hear us in mercy, and to grant us an answer of peace. We bless thy great and holy name for all the goodness and mercy which thou art daily making to pass before us in this present life, and for the blessed hope of a heavenly inheritance beyond the grave. We give thanks, O Lord, for the opportunities this day afforded us of worshipping thee in thine earthly courts, and receiving instructions and consolations from thy word of truth. We are not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which thou hast shown us. We confess before thee, the great Searcher of hearts, that in us there dwelleth no good thing, and that if thou wert strict to mark iniquity,

we could not answer thee for one out of many thousands of our offences. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out all our transgressions. Being justified by faith, may we have peace with thee, our God, through our Lord Jesus Christ; and as he who hath called us is holy, so may we also learn to be holy in all manner of conversation. May it be given unto us to know the love of Christ our Lord, which passeth knowledge; and may we walk in love as Christ also hath loved us, and given himself for us. May we hold on our Christian course rejoicing, and be found steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. O send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead us; let them bring us to thy holy hill and heavenly presence. By all our approaches to thee in thine earthly courts, may our spirits be finally prepared for serving thee hereafter, without sin and without end, in a heavenly temple. Be gracious to all with whom thou hast connected us in this passing life. Remember them with that favor which thou bearest to thy people. O thou keeper of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, watch over us during the hours of rest. May we remember thee upon our bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. May we be daily looking and preparing for that rest which remaineth for thy people. May we wait patiently all the days of our appointed time, and be enabled to depart in peace, having seen thy salvation. Hear us, O Lord, and accept of us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY XXVII.

O HOLY, just, and sovereign God, in thy law we desire to see the reflection of all thy perfections. We would be impressed in our inmost souls with this conviction, that sinners like us cannot approach a God like thee, and live before thee. Thy commandments we have broken; thy law we have despised; and though thou hast, in mercy to our souls, warned us of the danger of sin, yet have we, O living God, neglected thy warnings, and turned a deaf ear even to thine entreaties. God be merciful to us sinners. Turn us, that we may be turned. May the eternal Spirit convince us of sin, according to the promise; and bring us to the Lord Jesus, who, in his people's stead, magnified the law and made it honorable; fulfilled all righteousness; made an end of transgression; and shed the blood which cleanseth from all sin. O God of mercy, grant that by a vital and a spiritual union to the Lord Jesus, we may be complete in him. Being guilty, and polluted, and vile in ourselves, O take away our pollution, through the blood which at once atoneth for sin and cleanseth from it. As thou didst give thy Son to be a curse for thy people, give us precious faith in him, that from his death we may derive life; that from his sufferings we may obtain joy; and that, since he bore the curse, we may obtain mercy to pardon. While we

beseech thee, O God of mercy, thus to pardon and bless us, we would adore thee for our temporal mercies as well as our spiritual blessings. We thank thee for the preservation of the past night; for the health and the comforts of this morning. Grant that, under the guidance of thy Spirit, we may this day act in spirit and in truth, like the people of thee, the Lord. Amid our intercourse with the world, teach us to remember that if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Help us, therefore, to set the Lord before us. May thy Son be precious to us. May the Spirit dwell in us. May holiness to the Lord be inscribed on our hearts. May sin be pardoned; and may thy glory thus be promoted in the salvation of our souls, through Jehovah our righteousness, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—LUKE X. 1-24.

O THOU who art light, and in whom is no darkness at all, we would praise and magnify thy name for thy sovereign goodness towards us, in sending the knowledge of thy Son to these distant isles of the sea. We adore thee for this, that poor, and miserable, and wretched as we are by nature, thou hast in Christ Jesus made provision for restoring us to thy favor, by blotting out our sins. And since thou hast brought to our knowledge the plan of redemption, and permitted us to learn it by the hearing of the ear, O living God, complete thy mercy, by enabling us, through thy grace and Spirit, to believe with the heart to the saving of the soul. May Jesus Christ be in us, by his Spirit, the hope of glory. May we be taught to live by faith on the Son of God. May the kingdom of God be within us—that kingdom which consists in righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Our heart's desire and prayer, O God, is, that we may have in us the mind of Christ, and be before thee, even as he is, through faith in his name as the Prince of peace. And blessed God, hear our prayers, while we beseech thee to spread the savor of that name throughout the world. May thy church, through all its borders, soon become a missionary church, even till, by the unction of the Holy Ghost, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess at the name of Jesus. May thy ministering servants be full of the Holy Ghost. May they be taught to glory only in the Lord, and to know nothing but Christ and him crucified. While we beseech thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to sanctify us in the use of all our privileges, we would also thank thee for the happiness and the protection of another day. Forgive the sins we have committed in its course. Sprinkle us with the blood of cleansing, and speak peace unto us. Prepare us for death, judgment, and eternity. Take us under thy guardianship for this night. May no evil thing befall us; may no plague come near our dwelling. Grant refreshing repose. Prepare us for all our duties. And in Christ Jesus be our everlasting portion, for thy great name's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY XXVIII.

O FATHER, Lord of heaven and earth, through the power of thy grace, dispose us now to come into thy presence, as children drawing nigh to a parent that loves them. May thy free Spirit endue us with the spirit of adoption, and deliver us from the spirit of bondage. Through Jesus Christ, the first-born of many brethren, teach us to rejoice in our privileges, to hold communion with thee, the Father, and thy Son Christ Jesus. Forbid, O God, that we should ever find peace in any creature apart from thee, the Creator. But fill our souls with the enjoyment of thee, in Christ, even till we be raised to the rank from which sin thrust us down, and enabled to walk in spirit with thee, like two who are agreed. This morning, O Lord our God, would we adore thee, for the teaching of thy blessed word, and beseech thee to accompany it with the teaching of thy Holy Spirit. Open our understandings, to understand it; our hearts to receive its truth, and give us grace to practise it in our lives, to rejoice in thy promises, and tremble at thy rebuke. We entreat thee, O just and sovereign God, to arise and have mercy on thine ancient people. Father, in thine own time, elect from among them, and bring in the remnant of Israel, with the fulness of the Gentiles. And seeing, O God of mercy, that our privileges are so high, forbid that they should ever be abused, or rise up in memorial against us, when we stand before thee our God. Again, do we bless and adore thee, for the repose of another night, the renewed mercies of another day. Teach us to use all as not abusing it. May thy Holy Spirit be with us this day. Go, O God, as a pillar of cloud before us; and teach us, amid all our gettings, to get knowledge of thee, through him who is the way, and the truth, and the life. Hear us in this our prayer; pardon us our transgressions, through the blood that speaketh peace, sanctify us wholly, and the glory shall be unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—LUKE X. 25-42.

O GOD, whilst we magnify and extol thy name together, for what thou art in thyself, glorious in holiness, and fearful in praises, we would magnify thee especially for what thou art in Christ Jesus, to the lost children of men—the God that delighteth to pardon, unto whom judgment is a strange work. Praise waiteth for thee in Zion, because thou art, in Christ Jesus, reconciling sinners to thyself; and O grant, that we may be of the number of those who are thus brought nigh unto thee, through the blood of Christ's cross. Teach us, O God, to sit down in spirit at the foot of the cross. May we there

find Christ to be the wisdom of God, and the power of God, all our salvation, and all our desire. Breathe upon our dead souls, by thy quickening Spirit. Thereby unite us to the Lord Jesus, even till we be members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones; out of his fulness may we all receive. May his love constrain us to love him, and all who belong to the household of faith. Impress our hearts with the conviction that one thing is needful, even an interest in Christ. O grant unto us, even unto us, such an interest, that we may know the blessedness of him whose sins are forgiven, whose iniquities are covered, and who lives by faith upon the Son of God. Teach us to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. Deliver us from this world's delusions and vanities, and teach us that he that is not for Christ, is against Christ; he that gathereth not with Christ, scattereth abroad. Be near, O God, unto those who are in sickness, in danger, or near to death; may Christ be magnified in their deliverance. Be merciful to us, O God, through Christ our covenant head, for the sins of this day. We have done little for thee, we have thought little of thee; but Lord, remember mercy. Take away all our iniquity. Blot out our transgressions like a cloud. Spread over us thy protection for the night that has closed around us; and ere we resign ourselves to sleep, O God, grant that our peace may be made with thee, and with our consciences, through the blood of atonement. Our hopes, O Lord, rest on thee, thou Shepherd of Israel. Watch over us and all ours; bless us, provide for us, pardon us, make us thine in soul and in body, forever and ever, through the Spirit of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY XXIX.

O LORD, thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations. Thou hast guided and sustained them during their earthly pilgrimage, and hast ever proved thyself to be a very present help in the time of their trouble. We behold the most instructive and encouraging proofs of thy mercy, thy power, and thy faithfulness in thy dealings towards thy chosen people. Thou didst bring them forth from the house of bondage, in the presence of their enemies, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched-out arm. Thou didst divide the waters of the sea before them, and didst lead them through the wilderness, under the visible symbols of thy presence. Thou didst feed them with manna from heaven, and didst satisfy their thirst with water from the rock. And thou didst enter into covenant with them, to be a God to them and to their seed. But alas! how depraved, and how deceitful is the human heart! How soon did thine ancient people forsake thy holy law, and violate their most solemn engagement; 'all that the Lord hath spoken, will we do.' And how vainly did they expect impunity, whilst they gave themselves over to sensual indulgences! May we take warning

from their unfaithfulness, and from their doom. And when we contemplate the land of promise, now lying in desolation, and the posterity of its rightful possessors scattered to the four winds of heaven, O may we fear lest, by our abuse of still richer privileges, we be condemned to the flames of everlasting burnings. O help us, by thy grace, to flee from the wrath to come, and to lay hold on eternal life. And having named the name of Christ, may we depart from all iniquity, and abound more and more in the fruits of righteousness, to the glory of redeeming love. O help us to rejoice in the fulness and sufficiency of thy holy word. May we ever seek, under the gracious teaching of thy blessed Spirit, to know its meaning, and to feel its sanctifying power. May it thus be effectual in enlightening our minds in the knowledge of thyself, and of thy Son Jesus Christ. May it ever dwell in us richly in all wisdom. May it render us wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus, and furnish us thoroughly unto all good works. May it ever be the ground of our faith, the rule of our conduct, and the source of our sweetest consolation. May it be our counsellor in the daytime, and our song in the night watches; and may its faithful promises soothe our spirits on the bed of death. And valuing thy word ourselves, may we ever long for the happy time when it shall be imparted, in all its extent and purity, to every nation under heaven. May our friends and connections know 'the joyful sound,' and walk at all times in the light of thy countenance. And may they and we at last meet together in our Father's house, beyond the reach of sorrow or of death. Be present with the sons and daughters of affliction, and when their troubles abound, may thy consolations, through Christ Jesus, much more abound. And now, holy Father, we commend ourselves to thee, and to the guidance of thy good Spirit. Be with us this day to direct us in all our duties, and to sustain us under all our trials. And do thou hear us, and accept of us, and bless us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—LUKE XI. 1-28.

OUR Father who art in heaven, do thou deeply impress our minds when we draw near to the footstool of thy throne of grace, and enable us to realize thy gracious presence. Teach us to come to thee in that new and living way of access which thou hast opened up through Jesus Christ, and give us the spirit of adoption, whereby we may cry unto thee, Abba, Father. Let thy name, thy holy character, and thy adorable perfections be known, revered, and glorified by all thy intelligent offspring. May the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom be speedily and widely extended. May Jesus, the King of Zion, gird his sword on his thigh, and ride forth conquering and to conquer, until all the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. And we earnestly beseech thee,

heavenly Father, to give us individually a place in that kingdom, which is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. May our hearts, and the hearts of all mankind, be brought effectually under the hallowed influence of divine truth; so that thy will may be done in earth, as it is in heaven. And, O Lord, as we are entirely dependent on thee for every breath that we draw, and for every morsel of food that sustains our natural existence, do thou give us day by day, in thy unmerited favor, and for Christ's sake, those temporal mercies which thou seest we need. Feed us with food convenient for us; and may we experience thy covenant love even in partaking of the meat that perisheth. Behold, we have sinned, and what shall we say unto thee, O thou preserver of men? Look upon us in the face of thy dear Son, and for his sake be merciful to our unrighteousness, our sins and iniquities do thou remember no more. Justify us freely by thy grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, and sanctify us wholly by the power of thy Holy Spirit. Having commenced the Christian career, may we never look back with a carnal affection to the world and its vanities; but may we keep the onward path of new obedience, which leads to the heavenly Zion. We bless thee, gracious Father, for the mercies and privileges of another day. Give us heart-felt gratitude for the numberless benefits which thou art crowding into our lot, and help us to improve them all for the advancement of thy glory, and for our own spiritual improvement. And we humbly implore the sanctified use of the various trials and afflictions with which thou art pleased to visit us in the course of thy holy providence. Deal with us in mercy as with thy redeemed children, causing all things to work together for our good. Teach us ever to live as on the borders of the eternal world. May our lives be hid with Christ in God. And when he who is our life shall appear, may we appear with him in glory. Bless, we pray thee, a preached gospel in our own land; and make it effectual, by thy grace, for the conversion and salvation of all our friends and connections. Visit in mercy the habitations of the afflicted and the dying, and be a very present help to them in the time of trouble. Into thy blessed hands, holy Father, we commend ourselves this night. May we feel ourselves safe and happy under thy protecting wings. And in the morning, if it is thy good pleasure to permit us to see its light, may we be still with thee, and may our first thoughts ascend to thee, the God of our salvation. And when at last our days on earth are numbered, may we go to the general assembly and church of the first-born in heaven, and cast our crowns at the feet of Jesus, and sing the praises of redeeming love through all the ages of a joyful eternity. And unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Spirit, one God, be ascribed all honor and glory, dominion and praise, now, and evermore. Amen

THURSDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY XXX.

WHO, O Lord, is a God like unto thee, who pardonest iniquity, and passest by the transgression of the remnant of thy heritage, who retainest not thine anger forever, because thou delightest in mercy ! O do thou turn again and have compassion upon us, and cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Remember us, O Lord, with the favor which thou bearest to thine own, and visit us with thy salvation. Thou hast indeed been good and gracious to us, and hast blessed us with the most distinguished Christian privileges. Thou hast not dealt so with any people as thou hast done with us. Thou hast given us thy precious word in all its extent and purity ; and here we are permitted daily to read the wondrous things of God. Thou art permitting us to enjoy peaceful sabbaths and pure gospel ordinances ; and in the observance of these we are encouraged to expect the guidance of thy Spirit, and the gracious presence of Jesus our Saviour. Thou hast been plying us from our earliest day, with the promises, the invitations, and the warnings of thy holy word ; and thou hast been moving our hearts by the inward operations of thy grace. What more could have been done to melt and win our hearts than thou hast done ? But alas ! we have remained insensible to all the overtures of thy mercy and love. Thy goodness has not led us to repentance, but we have continued in sin because grace abounds. O enter not into judgment with us. But justify us freely by thy grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. And O may the exceeding greatness of that power by which Christ was raised from the dead be exerted in quickening us from the death of sin, and in raising us to newness of life, even a life of active, consistent, and progressive holiness. May we rise every day to higher attainments in the divine life, until we are rendered meet for the heavenly inheritance. O Lord, look down in compassion on the millions of our race who are still sitting in darkness, and cause the Sun of righteousness to arise and shine upon them with healing in his wings. Remember thy covenant with Abraham, thy friend, and remove the veil of ignorance and unbelief from the hearts of his descendants. Be thou the God of this family. Bless us with all temporal mercies as thou seest we need : and bless us especially with all spiritual blessings in Christ. We would go forward to the various duties of this day, imploring thy wisdom to direct us, thy strength to uphold us, and thy Spirit to revive and comfort us. And when at last the tie of affection with which we are united, as inhabitants of this world, shall be burst asunder by the strong hand of death, may we meet together in a purer and closer fellowship in heaven. And seeing we know not what a day may bring forth, may we ever be in the attitude of those who are waiting for the coming of their Lord. And when he proclaims to us, Behold, I come quickly ; may we be able, without hesitation or alarm, to reply, Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Hear us now, holy Father ; and when thou hearest forgive, and accept of us and bless us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—LUKE XI. 28-54.

GREAT and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou king of saints! Who would not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy? Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has visited and redeemed his people. He has thought on us in our fallen and sinful condition, and laid help on one who is mighty. Our souls would therefore magnify the Lord, and our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. O the breadth and the length, the depth and the height of the love of God in Christ Jesus; it indeed passeth knowledge! May thy Spirit, gracious Father, convince us deeply of sin; may thy goodness lead us to repentance; may thy grace subdue our obstinate and unbelieving hearts. Remove all doubts and misapprehensions from our minds, and give us that faith which is of the operation of thy Spirit. Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief. Strengthen and confirm our faith in Jesus as our own precious Saviour, until our souls are filled with all joy and peace in believing. Alas, O Lord, our hearts are full of darkness as well as unbelief. Do thou shine into our hearts by the light of thy word and Spirit, so that we may not any longer walk in the darkness of our natural state. Of us may it be true, that whereas we were once darkness, we are now light in the Lord. And seeing our light is come, seeing the glory of God is risen upon us, may we arise and shine, even as lights in the world. May we ever recommend the gospel of Jesus to all around us, by a pure conversation and a holy life. Help us, we humbly pray thee, to be faithful and unshrinking in confessing Christ before men. And may we, who now bow down together at the footstool of thy throne of grace, at last meet together before the throne of thy glory, and cast our crowns at the feet of Jesus. Father of mercies, do thou perfect that which concerneth us, and render us meet for the heavenly inheritance. Look down in mercy, holy Father, on the dark and desolate places of the earth. Send forth more laborers into thy harvest. Crown their labors with success, until the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. We affectionately commend our friends to thy fatherly care and thy redeeming grace. We tenderly sympathize with all who are confined to chambers of distress. O Lord, thou knowest their frame; do thou pity and spare them, if it seem good unto thee. Purify them in the furnace of affliction. And may those who are entering the dark valley of the shadow of death, experience the presence and support of the heavenly Shepherd. Take us all, heavenly Father, under the shelter of thy protecting wings this night. And if it is thy good pleasure that we see the light of a new day, may we rise up strengthened for its various duties and trials. And now, may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through

Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY XXXI.

ALMIGHTY God, we adore thee as our Father who art in heaven and we acknowledge with gratitude the innumerable tokens we have received of thy parental tenderness. Enable us to exhibit the affection, the obedience, and the devotion which becometh thy children. May we be drawn unto thee by the cords of love, and may thy goodness lead us to repentance. We have, however, continually to deplore our ingratitude and sinfulness, and to lament that our spot is not the spot of thy children. We blush and are ashamed to lift up our faces unto thee; God be merciful to us sinners. Impart to us, we entreat thee, the light and grace of thy Holy Spirit, that we may see and feel our sinfulness and misery, and be led unto him whose blood cleanseth from all sin, that, being justified by faith, we may have peace with God. Enlisted under the banners of the Captain of our salvation, may we follow him through good report and through bad report; and may he subdue all the enemies of our souls in this earthly wilderness, and finally beat down every obstacle that would oppose our entrance into the rest that remaineth for the people of God. Blessed be thy name for the testimony which the scriptures bear to Christ, and for the grace, mercy, and peace which they impart to those who are under the teaching of the Holy Spirit. May we desire them more than gold, yea, than much fine gold. Being taught by them how hard and bitter a thing it is to forsake the Lord our God, may we strive to be preserved in the ways of religion, which are alone ways of pleasantness and peace. Enable us to tread in the footsteps of him who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Forbid that we should turn thy grace into lasciviousness; that we should rank ourselves among the friends of Christ, while by wicked works we deny him, or that we should set our hearts upon evil, because sentence against our evil works has not been speedily executed. May we set thee, the Lord, always before us, and may thy fear restrain us from evil. Forbid that the cares or the pleasures of this world should choke the growth of religion in our hearts, or that we should plan or undertake anything this day upon which we cannot ask thy blessing. Heavenly Father, fit us for all the duties of this day; give us strength to resist temptation, and make us a family whose God is the Lord. All we ask and hope for is for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—LUKE XII. 1-32.

MOST gracious and most blessed God, we adore thee as the searcher of the hearts and the trier of the reins of the children of men.

The most secret thought and action are open to thee, with whom we have to do. Enable us to set thee the Lord ever before us; not to oppress us with a slavish fear, but to restrain us from everything that is impure and sinful. When temptations to sin present themselves, let us fear thee, who canst cast both soul and body into hell. We recognize thy providential care over us, and we rejoice in the conviction that the very hairs of our heads are numbered by thee. Forbid, O God, that the cares of this world, or the deceitfulness of riches, should deaden our affections for thee, or distract our thoughts from those things that belong unto our everlasting peace. May it be the great end and aim of our lives to glorify thee, and to seek first the kingdom of God, and thy righteousness, in the assurance that all other things will be added unto us. May thy Holy Spirit so change our feelings, desires and affections, that we may practically regard the concerns of our souls as the one thing needful, and may he lead us, by a living faith, unto the Saviour; and enable us to count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. Be it the chief desire of our hearts to win him, and to be found in him, not having our own righteousness which is by the law, but the righteousness which is by the faith in him. Enable us, O God, to give evidence of our attachment to Christ, by our observance of his commandments, and, constrained by all thy mercies, may we present our bodies a living sacrifice unto thee, holy and acceptable, which is our reasonable service. We earnestly pray for the extension and advancement of Christ's kingdom at home and abroad, and particularly for its progress in our own hearts. Into thy hands we commend ourselves this night, and all that are near and dear to us, and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—DEUTERONOMY XXXIII. XXXIV.

WE adore and bless thee, Almighty God, as the high and the holy One who inhabitest eternity; as the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift. In thy hands our lives are, and thine are all our ways; we would therefore desire to glorify thee, in our bodies and spirits, which are thine. We adore thee, that, under the Jewish dispensation, thou didst bow the heavens and come down in awful majesty to deliver thy holy law. As that law was given with such solemnity, may we exceedingly fear and quake at the thought of transgressing it; as it was written by thy finger on tables of stone, let us ever keep before us its eternal obligations. May it be the delight of our hearts, and the rule of our lives. We lament the corruption of our natures which gives us a disrelish for it, which prevents us from seeing any beauty in it that we should desire it, which is constantly suggesting temptations from within and without to transgress it, and which has made us sinners before thee exceedingly. We feel that we cannot of ourselves escape

its denunciations, nor satisfy its just requirements. But blessed be thy name, that the hand-writing of condemnation has been blotted out, and nailed to the cross of Christ; that what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, thou didst in mercy accomplish, by sending thine own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh. May the Holy Spirit enable us, by faith, to put our hands upon the head of our atoning sacrifice, and to confess our sins over him with unfeigned repentance, that our iniquity being laid upon him, we may be redeemed by his atoning blood. May thy Holy Spirit subdue the corruption of our hearts, despoil us of our weapons of rebellion, and clothe us with the whole armor of God. May our lives be adorned by all the fruits of the Spirit, and may our light so shine before men, that they may be thereby induced to glorify their Father in heaven. We earnestly pray, Almighty Father, that the light of the gospel may shine upon the heathen nations, and that the means used by our church for that purpose, may be crowned with abundant success. We likewise earnestly pray for the extension of Christ's kingdom in our own land, in our own neighborhood, in our own hearts. May thy Holy Spirit keep us this day from the evil that is in the world. Take us, and all that are near and dear to us, under thy protecting care, and all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—LUKE XII. 33-59.

WE approach, this evening, O God, unto thy throne of grace, in the name of the Lord Jesus, who is the only true and living way unto thee; in whom thou seest no iniquity in Jacob nor perverseness in Israel. O thou, before whom a sparrow is not forgotten, watch over us and preserve us from all evil. O thou who clothest the lilies of the field and feedest the fowls of heaven, feed us with the natural food convenient for us, but particularly with that spiritual food which can nourish and sustain our souls through eternity. Wean us, O God, from over-solicitude about the things of this life, and give us grace to value treasures in heaven, and to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. As we know not when our souls may be required of us, may we constantly have our loins girt and our lamps burning, and be waiting for the coming of our Lord. May we be enabled so to act that, whether living or dying, we may be the Lord's. Blessed be thy name for thy sparing mercy; blessed be thy name that thou hast not summoned us to eternity with a load of unrepented guilt. Behold, we are vile in thy sight; O be merciful to us sinners against thee. May thy long-suffering lead us to repentance. Save us, O God, by an everlasting salvation. Justify us freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, and sanctify our souls by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. Inspire us with that zeal for thy service, with

that straitening till our work is accomplished, which our blessed Lord exemplified on earth, and while we are assured that unless we have the Spirit of Christ, we are none of his, let us beware of appropriating to ourselves a title to the blessings of his purchase, while we are not striving to live holy, harmless, and undefiled. In time of trouble may we look to the Captain of our salvation, who was made perfect through suffering, and may nothing be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. We feel our own natural weakness and insufficiency, clothe us, we beseech thee, with the whole armor of God, that we may be enabled to stand in the day of trial, and finally to be more than conquerors through him that loved us, and gave himself for us. We implore thy blessing upon the church of Christ at home and abroad. May he sprinkle many nations who are now strangers to him, and may he see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. Unto whom shall we commend the sons and daughters of affliction, but unto thee, the Physician of soul and body. Bless us as a Christian family; whatever others may do around us, as for us may we serve the Lord. Into thy hands we commit ourselves, this night, and all that are near and dear to us; and all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

Fifteenth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS XLV.

At the footstool of thy throne of grace, O thou infinitely glorious and merciful Lord God, would we desire, on this morning of thine own day, to prostrate ourselves with the lowliest reverence, beseeching thee to pour out thy Holy Spirit upon us, and to enable us to worship thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. We are unworthy, O Lord, utterly unworthy to appear before thee, the high and lofty One who inhabitest eternity, and in whose presence angels are represented as veiling their faces with their wings. To us belong shame and confusion of face, because we have rebelled against thee; and hadst thou dealt with us according to our sins, or rewarded us according to our iniquities, we would, at this moment, have been lifting up our eyes in hell, being in torments, instead of being permitted to draw near to thee in prayer, in the name of Jesus thy beloved Son. We thank thee, O Lord, for the institution of thy holy sabbath, in which we have so precious an opportunity of waiting upon thee, both in public and private ordinances of thy worship. May we highly value, and diligently improve, this season of holy rest. May our souls this day thirst for God, for the living God. May we ardently desire to enjoy hallowed communion with thee, as our

covenant God, through Jesus Christ. May the world, with all its concerns, be this day banished from our thoughts, and may the infinitely important realities of an unseen and eternal state, occupy our deepest attention. May we seriously consider how soon, how very soon, sabbaths and means of grace shall come to an end, and our spirits be summoned into thy presence, to give an account of the deeds done in the body. May we, therefore, spend every sabbath as if it were the last we were to enjoy on earth, confessing all our sins with godly sorrow, imploring fervently thy pardoning mercy, humbling ourselves deeply in thy presence, exercising a lively faith in the blood and righteousness of Emmanuel, examining ourselves strictly and impartially, whether we are indeed new creatures in Christ Jesus, girding up the loins of our minds, watching and praying, and acting as those who wait for the coming of their Lord. And may we be cheered by a good hope through grace, that, when our earthly house of this tabernacle has been dissolved, we shall have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Let thy name and thy Son's name, be this day specially glorified. O may the mighty Saviour this day gird his sword upon his thigh, and go forth conquering, and to conquer. May the time soon arrive when the glad tidings of salvation shall be published in every land, and Jew and Gentile shall turn to the Lord, and all the kingdoms of this world, become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ. Hear, O Lord, in heaven thy dwelling-place, and do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, for the sake of thy dear Son, whom thou always hearest. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS XLVI. XLVII.

O LORD, thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations; thou hast ever been their refuge and their strength, a very present help in the time of trouble. O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee, or to thy faithfulness round about thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea; when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. May we therefore at all times, place the firmest confidence in thee, persuaded that if we are indeed among the number of thy believing people, thou wilt cause us to drink of that river, the streams whereof make glad the city of our God; that thou wilt ever be in the midst of us, and not suffer us to be moved; that thou the Lord wilt help us in every time of difficulty and distress, and that right early. We desire, O Lord, to thank thee for the opportunity we have this day enjoyed of assembling together in thy sanctuary, in order to engage in the public exercises of thy worship, and to hear the precious truths of thy word. O may the preaching of thy gospel be accompanied with power from on high, for the conviction of sinners; for comforting and edifying the body of Christ. And while so many, alas! resist all the com

passionate entreaties of a beseeching Saviour, and treasure up to themselves wrath against the day of wrath, O may we be indeed his humble, faithful, devoted disciples. May we study to adorn the doctrine of our God and Saviour in all things, by living soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present evil world; may we be panting after greater conformity to his holy image; may we be deeply abased on account of our manifold sins and imperfections; and may we come boldly to thy throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need. O may we regard thee as a God to be adored, a God to be loved, a God to be trusted in, a God to be served, and a God to be enjoyed through all eternity. And O may Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ that passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God. And feeling an increasing sense of our obligations to him who loved us, and gave himself for us, may we abound more and more in the work of the Lord. May we every sabbath be receiving additional strength from above, to enable us to resist every temptation, to conquer every enemy, and to discharge every duty. And while we thus pray for ourselves, we would also supplicate thee in behalf of all our brethren of mankind; we pray for the young—the more advanced in life—for the aged and the dying; give them grace and strength to serve and trust in thee, according to their day. We pray for the ministers of the everlasting gospel, especially for thy servant who labors among us in holy things. O may he be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God. May he be the honored instrument in thine hand of turning many unto righteousness, and of directing, comforting, and animating thy people. And now, Lord, we commend ourselves to thy watchful care during the hours of repose. May we lie down at peace with thee, at peace with ourselves, and at peace with all mankind. And when our sabbaths on earth have come to an end, O may we spend an eternal sabbath of joy and love in thy presence on high. Hear, O Lord, we beseech thee, these our supplications, and grant us a gracious answer, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—JOSHUA I.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, the creator of the ends of the earth who faintest not, neither art weary. In thee we live, and move, and have our being. Thou hast given us existence, thou preservest our lives every moment, thou hast allotted to us the situations which we occupy, and whenever the time which thou hast appointed us on earth shall come to an end, then thou changest our countenance and send-

est us away. Thou art continually reminding us by the voice of thy providence that from the stroke of death there is no exemption, either to the high or the low, the rich or the poor, the young or the old ; that even thy most faithful and devoted servants must yield to this universal conqueror, and resign to others the offices with which they are invested. May we contemplate these thy dispensations with the deepest solemnity ; may we derive from them the salutary lessons which they are intended to teach. May they lead us seriously to consider, that the time of our departure may be at hand, that in a very short period we may be summoned to give an account of our stewardship, and to hear from the lips of our Judge that sentence by which our everlasting destiny shall be decided. We praise thee, O Lord, in behalf of all thy servants who have fought the good fight, and finished their course, and kept the faith ; and that thou raisest up others to serve thee, and promote thy great designs to thy church and people. And suffer us not to yield to discouragement while pursuing our journey to the Canaan above. May the hope of being victorious over all our spiritual enemies, strengthen us amidst every conflict. Do thou, our God, be with us, and enable us to perform every duty, to resist every temptation, and to endure every hardship and affliction in thy service. May we highly value, and attentively study, thy holy word ; may it be sweeter to our taste, than honey to our mouth ; and prove a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path. O may thy Holy Spirit shine into our minds, and quicken our affections, and give us all joy and peace in believing. And may we not only read and hear the Scriptures, given by inspiration of God, but may we observe to do all that is written therein, that thus thou mayest make our way prosperous, and grant us good success. And now, Lord, we desire to render to thee our united acknowledgments for thy kindness to us during the past night, and for permitting us this morning to assemble at the footstool of thy throne of grace. We beseech thee to vouchsafe to us thy presence and thy blessing this day. May we enter upon the discharge of our various duties with cheerfulness and zeal, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of our heart as unto the Lord, with good-will doing service as to the Lord, and not unto men. May our light so shine before men, that others, seeing our good works, may glorify thee our heavenly Father. May we never forget that thou, God, seest us at all times, and in all places ; and may we ever think, and speak, and act as in thy presence. May we diligently cultivate all the graces of thy Holy Spirit. May we be humble, meek, patient, forgiving ; not rendering railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing. May we put away from us all wrath, and malice, and clamor, and evil-speaking, and be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another. May we never be overcome of evil, but always endeavor, in imitation of our Lord and Master, to overcome evil with good. O Lord, do thou be our keeper this day, be thou our shade at our right hand. O Lord, preserve us from all evil ; preserve our souls. O Lord, preserve our going out, and coming in, from this time forth, even for evermore. Our waiting eyes, O Lord, are towards thee ; our hope is placed only in thy

mercy. Hear us graciously, and love us freely, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—LUKE XIII.

O THOU holy, holy, holy Lord God, how shall we, who are but dust and ashes, take it upon us to speak unto the Lord? O how unworthy are we to appear in thy presence, or to take thine infinitely glorious name into our polluted lips! O how justly mightest thou have mingled our blood with our sacrifice, and cut us off while thus worshipping thee with our mouth, and honoring thee with our lips, while our hearts were far from thee. Verily it is because thou art God, and not man, and thy compassions fail not, that we are not consumed. O may thy goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering, lead us to repentance. May we think on our former evil ways and our doings, which have not been good, and may we loathe ourselves in our own sight for our iniquities and our abominations which we have committed. May the consideration of the base return which we have made for all thy favors, and especially for the stupendous gift of thy Son, excite the deepest contrition in our souls, and dispose us earnestly to plead for thy pardoning mercy. And, O suffer us not to go on to sin, because thy grace abounds. May we be thoroughly in earnest in the grand concern of salvation. May we strive to enter in at the strait gate, and not be contented with transient wishes and occasional efforts to flee from the wrath to come. And let us not be satisfied with a mere external profession, calling Christ, Lord, Lord, while we do not the things which he says, lest we should be among that wretched number to whom he will say at the last great day, I know you not, depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. May we ever remember that we are not our own, but bought with a price, and that therefore we are bound to glorify thee in our bodies and spirits, which are thine. May we henceforth be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know, that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. We thank thee, O Lord, for thy preserving care and thy heavenly bounty this day. May we never forget, that all we are, and all we have, is thine, that every good gift, and every perfect gift, is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights. We beseech thee, to shower down thy best blessings on us as a family. May we be all thy beloved children, through faith in Christ Jesus; all renewed in the spirit of our minds, all animated with the desire of pleasing thee, our heavenly Father, and all studying to promote each other's comfort and welfare. May peace be ever within our dwelling, and our hearts be knit together in love. May we all serve thee in our day and generation on earth; may we all be faithful unto death, that we may obtain a crown of life. And now, O thou who keepest Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleep-

est, we commit ourselves to thy care, during the silent watches of the night. May we enjoy undisturbed and refreshing repose if it be thy will. And when the night of death arrives, and the great midnight cry is heard, Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him, may our loins be girded about, and our lamps burning, and we ourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord. O Lord, hear, O Lord, forgive, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JOSHUA III. IV.

O LORD, grant us thy grace this morning, that we may be enabled to worship thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. We adore thee as the God of our life and the length of our days, for in thee we live, and move, and have our being. Thou hast been the hiding-place of thy people in all generations; give us now richly to experience thy favor, through the Lord Jesus Christ, while we draw near unto thee in the lively exercise of faith and of every devout affection. The heavens, O Lord, declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth forth the workmanship of thy hand; day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night teacheth knowledge of thee, the Almighty. All thy works praise thee, and thy saints they bless thy name. We thank thee for again permitting us, in the course of thy good providence, to worship together, as a Christian family, at thy footstool. O bless to us the reading of thy word. May we ever seriously remember, that whatsoever was written aforetime was written for our instruction. Establish our confidence in thy power and faithfulness. And may we all seek earnestly to be followers of them who, through faith and patience, are now inheriting the promises. We bless thee for the mercies of the past night and of this morning. Thou art daily loading us with thy benefits. But, O how unworthy are we of any, even the least of thy mercies. We have all sinned and come short of thy glory. We have been unfaithful stewards of thy bounty, and slothful servants in thy vineyard. We have sinned at once against the clearest light and the tenderest love. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to thy loving-kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. With lowly and penitent hearts we would supplicate thy forgiveness. Regard us not as we are in ourselves, but look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. Grant that, through the atoning blood of our adorable Redeemer, we may know experimentally the blessedness of them whose iniquities are pardoned and whose sins are covered. And may Christ be made, of thee, unto our souls, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption! Pour out upon us, we entreat thee, the Holy Spirit, to help our infirmities, and to lead us unto all truth. Take away the hard and stony heart, and bestow upon us hearts broken and contrite. Enable us to lay aside every weight and the sins that do more easily beset us. Help us to

adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. Fit us for the duties and support us under the trials of this day. We would cast all our care upon thee, and do thou graciously sustain us. Prosper our undertakings, so far as they may be agreeable to thy will. Grant us a holy submission to thy divine disposal. Preserve us from every snare and evil way. May Christ be formed in us the hope of glory, and may we be rooted and grounded in his love. Enlarge our hearts, that we may run in the way of thy commandments. May thy presence go with us whithersoever we shall be called in providence this day. Preserve our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. Our hope, O Lord, is in thee; let our help come from thee: and we ask all in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—LUKE XIV.

MOST gracious and ever-blessed God, pour out upon us, this evening, a spirit of grace and of supplication. Quicken us that we may call upon thy name, and draw out the desires of our souls after thee. But while we approach thee as the hearer and answerer of prayer, and the faithful rewarder of all those who truly seek thy face, through the divine Mediator, we feel that in thy presence we are sinful dust and ashes. The very heavens, O Lord, are not clean in thy sight, and thou chargest even thine angels with folly. How unworthy, then, are we, the fallen children of men, to take thy thrice holy name into our polluted lips! Thou didst indeed, at first, make man upright, but we have sought out many inventions. How has the gold become dim, and the most fine gold changed! We are now, by nature and by practice, the children of disobedience and deserved wrath. From the sole of the foot to the crown of the head there is no spiritual soundness in us; we are covered with wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores. If we should attempt to justify ourselves, our own mouths would condemn us. If we should say that we are righteous, that also would prove us perverse. We have nothing, and can do nothing, to avert thy just displeasure. Imperfection cleaves to our best services; defilement mingles with the purest purposes of our hearts. The sins of our holy things are more than sufficient to condemn us. Penetrated with a sense of our guilt, we implore thy pardoning mercy and thy sanctifying grace. Hear us in him whom thou hearest always, and be at peace with our souls for his sake in whom thou art ever well pleased. May we be justified freely by thy grace, sanctified wholly by thy Spirit, and kept by thy mighty power, through faith, unto salvation. O Lord, enable us henceforth to love thee more, and serve thee better than ever yet we have done. The objects of time and sense have too much engrossed our hearts, to the neglect of the great realities of eternity. **Moderate our attachment to earthly things. Wean our affections**

from worldly vanities. Help us to rejoice as though we rejoiced not, and to weep as though we wept not, and to use this world so as not to abuse it; ever remembering that the fashion of it passeth away. Enable us to make choice of that better part which shall not be taken from us. May we, by the aids of thy grace, be making daily progress in the divine life. Grant us the wisdom that is from above. Grant us that humility which is well-pleasing in thy sight, and that meekness of spirit which, in thy estimation, is of great price. We would ever cherish on our spirits, at thy footstool, a sincere desire for the temporal and eternal welfare of all our fellow-men. Extend, more and more, the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom. And do thou abundantly bless and prosper all the means employed for the universal diffusion of Christianity. Comfort the mourners in Zion. Speak peace to the troubled in mind. Sanctify affliction to the afflicted. Mercifully spare useful lives: fit and prepare the dying for death, and judgment, and a blessed immortality. May all who are dear to us, by the ties of nature or friendship, be the objects of thy special favor. May they and we be heirs together of the grace of life. Bountifully reward all who have done us good or wished us well; graciously forgive those who have done or wish us evil, and enable us from the heart to forgive them. We praise thy name for thy watchful care and kind providence over us throughout the day. We commit ourselves to thy protection for the night. Suffer no evil to befall us, and no plague to come near our dwelling. And to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost we ascribe the kingdom, power, and glory forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JOSHUA VI.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, we desire again to lift up our hearts with our hands unto thee, and to worship reverently towards thy holy place. Every new day brings to us additional proofs of thy gracious care and unceasing kindness. We bless thy name, that thou hast watched over us during the silence and darkness of the past night. We thank thee, for all that is comfortable in our circumstances at this time. Thy loving-kindness is new to us every morning; great is thy faithfulness. Early, O Lord, were we all cast upon thy care, and hitherto hast thou sustained us through all the dangers and difficulties that have beset our path in life. We would, therefore, call upon our souls and all that is within us, to be stirred up to magnify and bless thy name. But while we sincerely thank thee for health of body and soundness of mind, and all our other temporal mercies, we would praise thee, more especially for the Christian privileges with which we are favored. We bless thee for thy holy word and all the means of grace that we enjoy. May we be enabled to improve them diligently, ever mindful that of them to whom much is given much will be required! But above all thy

other benefits, would we extol thee, O Lord, for Jesus Christ, thine unspeakable gift. We earnestly desire to regard him as the only foundation of our hopes for eternity, and the source of all present peace and consolation. We confess before thee, our guilt and unworthiness. Grant us, O Lord, a true repentance towards thee, and a sincere faith in thy Son, our Saviour. Iniquities daily prevail against us. The scope of our affections is un sanctified, and the tenor of our thoughts unholy. There is in each of us an evil heart of unbelief. Enter not into judgment with us. In the midst of deserved wrath, remember us with unmerited mercy. Glory be to thy name, with thee there is forgiveness, that thou mayest be feared; with thee there is mercy and plenteous redemption! Blot out our sins in the peace-speaking blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Give us to experience thee to be in him our reconciled God and Father. And enable us by thy heavenly grace, henceforth to cherish the tempers and dispositions of thy true children. Grant us the victory over the world, the devil, and the flesh. Enlighten our minds in the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. Fill our souls with joy and peace in believing. Sanctify unto us all the dispensations of thy providence, and every solemn warning from thy blessed word. We desire to go forward to the duties before us this day, in an humble reliance on thy guidance and support. Let thy grace be sufficient for us; perfect thy strength in our weakness. Increase our faith; enlarge our charity. Help us in all that we do or undertake to acknowledge thee, that thou mayest direct our steps. Whether outward prosperity or adversity await us, O do thou enrich our souls with thy blessing, and visit us with thy benign salvation. Mercifully preserve our out-goings and in-comings. Help us at all times to realize thy holy presence and inspection. Let goodness and mercy follow us. And do thou to us, and for us, exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—LUKE XV.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the Father of lights and the fountain of every blessing. From thee cometh down every good and perfect gift; and with thee there is neither variableness nor shadow of turning. Thou hast clothed our bodies with skin and flesh, and fenced them with bones and sinews; and thy inspiration has given unto man understanding. By the word of thy power were we brought into existence, and by the exercise of thy providence are we upheld in being. We are bound by every tie of duty and of gratitude to love and serve thee. But, O how prone are we all to forget thee, the God that made us, and lightly to esteem thee, the Rock of our salvation! Thy paternal bounty is the source of all our mercies, and thy paternal care our only secure and un failing refuge; yet, alas, we

daily sin against heaven and in thy sight; and we are utterly unworthy to be called thy children. We have become weary of the salutary restraints of thy law. We have abused thy goodness, and trampled on thy authority. But, ever blessed be thy name, thy ways are not as our ways, nor thy thoughts as our thoughts! Thou hast caused us to hope in thy word. Thou mercifully invitest even the chief of sinners to return unto thee; and thou hast appointed a gracious method of acceptance, through the atoning death and all-prevalent intercession of Jesus Christ our Saviour. O Lord, if any of us be still at a distance from thee, do thou, by the Holy Spirit, bring us back to thyself. And do thou receive us graciously, heal our backslidings, and love us freely. If thou hast already sought and found us, enable us henceforth to cleave unto thee with full purpose of heart. And O help us to live in habitual remembrance that we are not our own, but bought with a sacred price, even the blood of thy Son. While at thy footstool in our own behalf, we desire to remember before thee all our brethren of mankind. O Father of mercies, let thy name be known through all the earth, and thy saving health among all nations! Cause the light of the blessed gospel to shine into the dark places of the earth. Bring in thine ancient people the Jews, with the fulness of the Gentiles. May sinners everywhere be turned from darkness unto light, from Satan unto God. May all who name the name of Jesus depart from iniquity. And may pure and undefiled religion more and more flourish in our land. In behalf of our friends we earnestly implore thy favor, which is life, and thy loving-kindness, which is better than life. Our enemies we sincerely commend to thy forgiveness. Visit, in mercy, all the chambers of sickness and mourning. Bless us, O Lord, even us here in thy presence, as a Christian household; and bless each of us according to our respective necessities. Supply all our temporal wants out of the treasures of thy providence, and all our spiritual need out of the riches of thy grace in the Lord Jesus Christ. May we all have an interest in the blessings of that covenant which is well ordered in all things and sure. May we be fellow-heirs of that inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled, and which fadeth not away. For the mercies of the day that has now closed, we offer up unto thee our united and fervent thanksgivings. O thou great Shepherd of Israel, who never slumberest nor sleepest, do thou keep watch over us through the silent hours of the ensuing night. We desire to resign ourselves entirely to thy gracious disposal. For us to live, may it be Christ; for us to die, may it be great gain. May we spend the remaining time of our sojourning upon earth in thy fear and service. And when thou hast accomplished in us, and by us, all thy wise and good purposes here below, grant that an abundant entrance may be ministered unto our spirits, into the heavenly mansions of light and glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JOSHUA VII.

HOLY Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Thou art to be sanctified of all them who draw near to thee. Solemnize our minds for thy service. Banish all distracting thoughts. May all within us be now engaged in thy service. We have no righteousness of our own, in which to appear before thee. But we come in the all-prevailing name of thy beloved Son, in whom thou art ever well pleased. See, O God, our Shield, look upon the face of thine Anointed, and for his sake grant us the help of thy Holy Spirit, that we may now present to thee a sacrifice and offering acceptable in thy sight. We give glory to thy name, by acknowledging that thou art glorious, and excellent, and infinitely exalted, and infinitely worthy to receive all adoration and praise. We give glory to thy name, by acknowledging that we are less than the least of all thy mercies, that we are chargeable with innumerable transgressions of thy holy law, that we have destroyed ourselves by sin. We give glory to thy name, by receiving the testimony which thou hast given concerning thy Son, that thou hast given us eternal life, and that this life is in thy Son; that thou art in Christ reconciling the world to thyself, not imputing unto them their trespasses; and that through him is preached unto us the forgiveness of sins. It is in his all-prevailing name, that we come before thee at this time, earnestly imploring the help of thy Holy Spirit to teach us to pray to thee. Make us deeply sensible of our spiritual wants, and do thou supply all our need, according to thy riches in glory, by Jesus Christ. Bless to us all the means of grace wherewith we are favored. Bless to us what we have been hearing from thy word. May we acknowledge thee in all our ways; do thou direct all our steps. Cleanse us from all secret faults, keep us back also from all presumptuous sins, and suffer them not to have dominion over us. May we take heed and beware of covetousness. Deepen our impressions of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Take away all our iniquity. Receive us graciously, love us freely. May we, by the Spirit, mortify the deeds of the body, that we may live to the glory of thy name. Accept, heavenly Father, of our united praises for thy watchful care over us during the night, for the rest and refreshment which thou hast given us, and that thou hast raised us up in comfortable circumstances this day. Give us this day our daily bread. Watch over us for good, strengthen us for duty. Prepare us for trial. May we attempt nothing in our own strength, but all in dependence upon thy grace. May we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to thee, the Father, through him. And to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, we ascribe the kingdom, the power, and the glory, both now and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—LUKE XVI.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we, thy dependent and sinful creatures, dwelling on this earth, thy footstool, are encouraged to lift up our hands and our hearts to thee, from whom cometh down all our aid. For though naturally we are far from thee, thou hast been graciously pleased, in the gospel of thy Son, so to draw near to us as to give us the strongest possible encouragement to draw near to thee. Pour out upon us, we humbly beseech thee, of thy Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of grace and supplications, that we may serve thee with what is of thine own giving to us. We desire, with our whole hearts, to give thanks to thee for Jesus Christ, thine unspeakable gift. And receiving him as our Saviour, we come to thee with the confidence of children to a father. Remember us with the love that thou bearest to thine own people. O visit us with thy salvation, that we may see the goodness of thy chosen, that we may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that we may glory with thine inheritance. Give us the dispositions of thy children. May we live blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a perverse and crooked nation, among whom may we shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. As thy children, may we be taught of thee. May we delight in thee as our portion. May we be active in thy service. May we be, in all things, resigned to thy disposing will. May we place all our trust under the shadow of thy wings. Thou, O Lord, hast assigned each of us our stations in this world. May we be faithful to our trust. May we, by the help of thy Spirit, discharge all the duties to which we are called, in the several stations and relations by which we are connected together. We live in a world where we are surrounded with temptations; and we have hearts deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. And may we use what thou givest us of this world as not abusing it, remembering that the fashion of this world passeth away. We thank thee, heavenly Father, that we live in a land of gospel light. May we set a high value on gospel privileges. Lead us to the right improvement of them. Thou knowest our weakness, our helplessness, our sinfulness. We look to thee for all needed help. And we rejoice to be assured from thy word, that it hath pleased thee that in Christ all fulness should dwell. May we daily receive out of his fulness even grace for grace. We thank thee, O Father of all the families of the earth, for all thy kindness to us as a family. Sanctify the relation by which we are connected as a family. Make us more and more helpful to one another. May the ties of nature be in us strengthened by the ties of grace. May we be helpers of each other's spiritual joy, and walk together as joint heirs of the grace of life. Accept, O Lord, of our thanksgiving for thy watchful care over us this day, for the supply of our returning wants, and for the measure of health which thou hast permitted us to enjoy. Take us

under thy care and keeping this night. Let no evil come nigh our dwelling. Give us refreshing rest. Take the direction of our thoughts and meditations. May we awake, thankful for thy mercies, and prepared for what thou art pleased to appoint for us. Hear, in heaven, these our supplications; and when thou hearest, forgive and accept, through Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—JOSHUA VIII.

HEAVENLY Father, we bless thy name for permitting us to draw near to thee in prayer. We are, indeed, less than the least of all thy mercies. And if thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who shall stand? But in the Lord Jesus Christ there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. And thou hast been graciously pleased to declare to us, that thou art in Christ reconciling the world to thyself, not imputing to them their trespasses. And thou art beseeching us to be reconciled to thee. We come to thee in his all-prevailing name; and give thanks to thee for thine unspeakable gift. In him receive us graciously, and love us freely. And grant us the help of thy Holy Spirit, that we may now present to thee our souls and bodies, as a living sacrifice. We acknowledge our constant and absolute dependence upon thee for everything. Thou art the God of our lives, the God of all our mercies, the God of our salvation. Impress deeply upon our minds, a sense of our infinite obligations to love and serve thee. May we be enabled to show the gratitude of our hearts, by the willing obedience of our hearts and of our lives. Write thy law upon our hearts. May we meditate on thy law day and night. Thou knowest all the trials, and dangers, and temptations to which we are exposed; and how insufficient we are, in our own strength, to resist and overcome them. May we find thy grace at all times sufficient for us, and thy strength perfected in our weakness. Deliver us from the power of sin that dwelleth in us. May we, by the Spirit, mortify the deeds of the body, that we may live. May we not love the world, nor the things of the world; but may thy love be shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost which is given us. And deliver us from the cunning devices and furious assaults of the wicked one. May we resist him, depending upon thy grace, and be made more than conquerors over all our enemies, through him who loved us. We give thanks to thee, gracious Father, for all that is comfortable in our outward circumstances. Provide whatever thou seest to be good for us. May we see and acknowledge thy kind hand in all that thou bestowest upon us. May we be contented with what thou art pleased to bestow upon us. And may our great concern be to seek first the kingdom of God, and the righteousness thereof, assured, from thy word, that all other things needful for us shall be added. While we plead for ourselves, we plead for all with whom we stand nearly connected. We implore

for them the same blessing that we ask in our own behalf. Make us more and more helpful to them ; and may we seek the good of all as we have opportunity, and be disposed to take a deep interest in their spiritual welfare. Accept of our thanksgiving for the watchful care which thou hast exercised over us during the night ; for the rest and refreshment which thou hast given us ; and for all that is comfortable in our circumstances this day. Watch over us for good ; strengthen us for duty ; prepare us for trial ; direct all our intercourse together for good. Be thou at our right hand, and we shall not be moved. And all that we ask is in the name, and for the sake, of thy beloved Son, our Saviour ; to whom, with thee, and the Holy Spirit, one God, we ascribe the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—LUKE XVII.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all comfort, we bless thy name for being permitted to approach the footstool of thy throne of grace. Unto whom, Lord, should we go but unto thee, for thou hast the words of eternal life ? We are poor, weak, and helpless creatures ; but with thee all fulness and perfection dwells. We are sinful and polluted dust and ashes : and therefore we cannot come into the presence of the infinitely holy God, in our own name and righteousness. But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. Therefore are we encouraged to hope in thee. Thou hast declared, that thou hast pleasure in them that fear thee, and hope in thy mercy, as revealed in the gospel. In Christ receive us graciously, and love us freely. Cause thy face to shine upon us, and so we shall be saved. Holy Father, we plead that thou wouldst create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us, that thou wouldst grant us, from the fulness of Christ, abundant communications of thy Holy Spirit ; that the kingdom of Christ may come within us ; that kingdom which is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Thus, sharing in the riches of thy grace and love, may we love our brethren with pure hearts fervently. May we cast away from us all anger, and malice, and wrath ; and put on, as the elect of God, bowels of mercy, forbearing, and forgiving one another, even as thou hast, for Christ's sake, extended forgiveness to us. Fit us for usefulness in our stations. May we be earnestly desirous to see the kingdom of Christ established in the hearts of all men. Thou knowest all the trials, and dangers, and temptations to which we are exposed, and how insufficient we are, in our own strength, to resist and overcome them. Let us not lean to our own understanding, nor trust to our own strength ; but may we exercise a constant dependence upon Christ. May we continually receive, out of the fulness of Christ, all the grace of which we continually stand in need. May we daily grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and

Saviour, Jesus Christ. We acknowledge O our God, that we are prone to forget thy mercies, and to be unthankful for the many kind interpositions of thy providence in our behalf. How often hast thou been pleased to interpose to preserve our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death! And yet we have soon forgotten such signal displays of thy love. But be thou pleased to impress deeply upon our minds a sense of our infinite obligations to love and serve thee. What shall we render to thee, the Lord, for all thy benefits to us? Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. May we live to thy glory. May the gratitude of our hearts be manifested by the willing obedience of our lives. Holy Father, we earnestly entreat of thee to raise our affections above the world. As those risen with Christ, may we seek the things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. May we often carry our thoughts forward to his second coming and glorious appearing. And as we know neither the day nor the hour when our Lord shall come, may we be found watchful and prayerful, having our loins girt about, our lamps burning, and our light shining, as those that wait for their Lord. Accept, heavenly Father, of our thanksgiving for the mercies of this day. Pardon wherein we have offended against thee. Take us under thy protecting care during the night. Give us rest and refreshment. Take the direction of our thoughts. And when we awake, may our first thoughts ascend to thee, in adoration and praise. We leave all in thy hands. Undertake for us in everything. And all that we ask is in the name, and for the sake, of thy dear Son, our Saviour. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—JOSHUA XXIII.

O THOU who dwellest in the high and holy place, whose name is holy, unto thee do we desire to lift up our souls in humble confidence and joy. We would draw near unto thee with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed as with pure water. We rejoice that Christ Jesus, by one offering, hath perfected forever them that are sanctified, and that we have now boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the rent veil of his flesh. And we would now approach thee as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; as his God and our God, his Father and our Father. We have abundant grounds to bless thee, O our God, for the goodness and tender mercy which thou hast made to pass before us. Unnumbered blessings were ours, ere yet we knew the hand that conferred them. Thine eye has ever been over us, and we have been the objects of thine unceasing care and unmerited bounty. Hitherto hast thou helped us. Thanks, especially, be unto thee, for thine unspeakable gift. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who hath

visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up a horn of salvation for us, that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us. Lord, grant unto us that we, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, may serve thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness before thee, all the days of our life. Being redeemed with the precious blood of Christ Jesus, may we feel that we are not our own, and that we are under the tenderest and the most solemn obligations to live no longer to ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Enable us to glorify and serve thee with our souls and our bodies, which are thine. Let thy grace be sufficient for us; make perfect thy strength in our weakness. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. May we be animated and encouraged by the promises of thy blessed word; and may we stand in awe of thy judgments. Put thy fear in our hearts, and direct them into the love of God. May we at last receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls. Guide us by thy good counsel this day, and preserve us from all evil. Hear, Lord, in heaven, and send us an answer in peace, for the sake of Christ Jesus. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—LUKE XVIII. 1-27.

HOLY and heavenly Father, we come before thee this evening, adoring thee as the great fountain of life and happiness, the Creator and preserver of men. Thou art the eternal Jehovah, whose dwelling is in light unapproachable. Thou art of purer eyes than to look upon iniquity, the heavens are not clean in thy sight, and thou chargest thine angels with folly. How, then, shall man, who drinketh iniquity like water, come into thy presence, or take thy holy name in his lips. Our hearts, by natural and original corruption, are unclean and alienated from thee, and to our inherited sins we have added the burden of many actual transgressions. We have lived unmindful of the God who made us at first in his own image; we have lightly esteemed the Rock of our salvation; and we have grieved thy good Spirit by our impenitence. Thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, and we have rebelled against thee. We have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are no more worthy to be called thy children. We rejoice in the encouragement given to thy children to confess their sins, and in the assurance that thou art faithful and just to forgive them, and to cleanse them from all unrighteousness. We might justly have been deprived of the privilege of prayer, as well as of our other privileges, for we have too much abused them. Thou hast invited us to ask that we may receive, and seek that we may find, and knock that it may be opened to us, but we have been cold, and careless, and dead, in spiritual duties. We have not been importunate in prayer, and therefore we have received little. Nor have we been humbled under a sense of

our great unworthiness in thy sight. We have too often been actuated by the spirit of the pharisee, and have valued ourselves on our attainments in the life of grace. How little of the disposition of children and of the spirit of adoption do we entertain. O that our faith in thee were even as a grain of mustard seed, that we might be enabled to plead for its increase. O that thou wouldst teach us self-denial, deadness, and crucifixion to the world, and thorough devotedness to the cause of our blessed Redeemer. May we be enabled to give all diligence, and to add to our faith virtue, and knowledge, and temperance, and patience, and godliness, and brotherly-kindness, and charity; that these things being in us and abounding, we shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would humbly bless thee for all the unmerited mercies of the past week, and of this day; and we implore the pardon of all our sins of heart and life. We would commit ourselves, and all who are dear to us, to thy watchful care during the night. We pray for the spread of the gospel: let thy kingdom come in power and in glory. If thou art pleased to spare us, may we be sanctified for the duties of the Lord's-day, and receive from thee the preparation of the heart. Hear, O Lord, and when thou hearest, forgive, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Sixteenth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS XLVIII. XLIX.

OUR Father which art in heaven! we, thy humble worshippers, would approach thee, on this the morning of thy holy day, with the voice of thanksgiving and praise. This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will be glad and rejoice in it. May we be in the spirit, and find pleasure and profit in meditating on the things that belong to our peace; and may we become holier, better, and happier, in waiting upon the Lord, in the observance of religious ordinances. We would bear solemnly in mind, that on this day Christ the Lord arose from the dead, the first-fruits of them that slept; that he, who was crucified in weakness, was raised in power: for thou didst not leave his soul in hell, neither didst thou suffer thy holy One to see corruption. Triumphant over sin and death, the Redeemer ascended on high, leading captivity captive, receiving gifts for men, yea, for the rebellious, that God the Lord might dwell among them. And we rejoice that, though now at the right hand of the heavenly throne, he has not forgotten his faithful people on earth; and in faith we would receive his own blessed assurance, In my Father's house are

many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you: and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you. May we, through grace, feel the power of Christ's resurrection upon our own souls. Being risen with him, may we seek the things which are above. Forbid that our affections should be set on the perishing enjoyments of this world, when the best treasure of our hearts is in heaven, and our glorified Redeemer has ascended to prepare a place for us in his own kingdom; a place of rest and peace, where we shall see, and praise, and adore him forever; a place of joy and everlasting fruition, where we shall love, and possess, and delight in him forever. O that we had the wings of a dove, that we might escape from all the allurements and temptations of this vain and sinful world, and meditate, with unbroken tranquillity, on all that has been done for our souls' eternal interests. May he, who holds the seven stars in his right hand, be graciously present with all his faithful servants this day, to enable them rightly to divide the word of truth; and let thy light be sent forth along with the truth, to make it effectual for the great purposes of awakening, comforting, and edifying. Let the joy of the Lord be the strength of all his people. Make them all joyful in thy house of prayer. Give a portion in season to those who are laid on beds of languishing and sickness. Arouse and enlighten those who care for none of the things of thy sanctuary. And let the everlasting arms especially be around us, both this day, and all the days of our lives; and at last, may we be admitted into that temple whence there is no going out; for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM L.

ALMIGHTY and all-blessed God! enable us to come before thee, on this the evening of thy holy day, with that reverential awe which becomes the creature addressing his Creator. May we be impressed by the thought that we have forfeited every claim upon thy bounty, and that by nature we are the children of wrath even as others. May we remember, in all our approaches to thy throne, that it is only through the sacrifice and merits of thine only and well-beloved Son, that we can offer up our supplications to a Being who to the wicked is a consuming fire; and that, as there is only one God, the hearer of prayer, so there is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. We bless thee that a way of access has been opened by the blood of the cross, by which guilty and ruined sinners can come, and ask mercy to pardon, and grace to help in the time of need; and that, though far from thee by nature, we are brought nigh, and reconciled, and adopted into thy family. Enable us, at this time, to look in faith to him whom our sins pierced, and mourn, as one mourneth for an only son, and be in bitterness, as one

that is in bitterness for his first-born. And do thou bring us to the fount of cleansing, that we may be sprinkled from all our filthiness, and all our idols. Wash us, and we shall be whiter than the snow. Create in us a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within us. May we win Christ, and be found in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ; the righteousness which is of God by faith, that we may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. May we be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, putting on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the wicked one, and to cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. May we know the blessedness of that man whose transgression is forgiven, and unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. And may the love of Christ constrain us thus to judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead, and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them, and rose again. May we be enabled to evidence the reality of our faith, by the purity of our practice. May we daily put off the old man, with all his deeds. Whatsoever things are true, and honest, and just, and pure, and lovely, and of good report, if there be any virtue and any praise, on these things may we meditate, and these things may we do. And this one thing may we do, forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, may we press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We adore and bless thy name, heavenly Father, for the renewed opportunities granted us this day of waiting upon thee in the sanctuary. Seal good impressions on our hearts, confirm pious resolutions, and give unto us all more of thy Holy Spirit. Pardon our many sins and short-comings in all our duties. Greatly bless and prosper all the means employed for extending the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom. Let thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. We would commit ourselves, our relations and friends, to thy watchful care during the silent night. In life, and in death, and throughout eternity, may we ever be with thee. Lord, hear, forgive, and do to us and for us, more than we can ask, or even think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—JOSHUA XXIV.

In coming into thy presence, O Lord, this morning, we would express our gratitude to thee for thine innumerable mercies. Though thou art a holy and jealous God, and we have done much to provoke thee to anger, yet thou hast loaded us daily with thy benefits. We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what

works thou didst in their days, in the times of old. So graciously hast thou defended, so abundantly prospered, and so richly privileged our land, that we may well say, thou hast not dealt so with any other people. And when we look back on all the way thou hast led us through the wilderness, we see reason at every step of our pilgrimage to set up our Ebenezer, and acknowledge, 'hitherto hath the Lord helped us.' Thanks be to thee for all thy gifts, but especially for thine unspeakable gift. Ever would we magnify thy name because thou didst not spare thine own Son, but didst deliver him up, and didst, by his obedience unto death, make full provision for our salvation. Yet how ungratefully have we requited thee. We have not rendered again unto thee according to the benefits done unto us. We have been forgetful of thy loving-kindness, and shamefully insensible to its claims. Yea, we have rebelled against thee, and have preferred the service of sin and satan to thy holy and blessed service. But still, O Lord, would we hope in thy mercy. Do thou graciously forgive our transgressions; and enable us to yield ourselves unreservedly to thee, as thy willing and faithful servants. Too long have we served other masters, but we would henceforth be for the Lord alone. Do thou by thy grace, for of ourselves we can do nothing, incline us to choose thee with our whole hearts as our God, and to consecrate all the talents thou hast given us to thy service and glory. Sprinkle clean water upon us, and we shall be clean from all our filthiness, and from all our idols do thou cleanse us; a new heart also do thou give us, and thy Spirit do thou put within us, that we may walk in thy statutes and keep thy judgments and do them. O forbid that we should ever attempt to serve God and mammon. May we have courage to avow ourselves thy servants, whatever temptations we encounter, and whatever defections we witness. And in the exercise of Christian love, let us strive to advance the salvation of our brethren, and such especially as are near and dear to us. Grant, O God, a revival of family religion throughout the land. Let an altar be erected to thee in every dwelling: and let the young be trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Follow with thy blessing the holy services of yesterday. Let the impressions then made, be preserved and deepened; the resolutions then formed, be remembered and executed. May we spend this new day under a livelier sense of our obligations to thee. And O grant, that when we come to die, we may be found to have finished the work given us to do, and may obtain an abundant entrance into heaven. And all that we ask, is for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—LUKE XVIII. 28-43.

O LORD, our God, we would bow before thee this evening, with reverence and gratitude, for thou art infinitely worthy to be feared and praised. Thou hast made us capable of beholding thy glory

in thy works; and whithersoever we turn our eyes, we see the manifestations of thy wisdom, and power, and goodness. In ourselves also, whom thou hast fearfully and wonderfully made, in the preservation of our bodily and mental powers, and in the countless comforts of our lot, we discern the striking tokens of thy benevolence. But especially, O Lord, do we behold the display of all thine attributes, and chiefly of thine infinite love, in the work of our redemption. When we call to mind, that thou didst send thine own Son into the world to be our substitute and surety, that by thy determinate counsel, though by wicked hands, he was subjected to every variety of suffering and sorrow, and that at length he was made a sacrifice for sin; our souls would magnify thee, and would celebrate the worthiness of the Lamb that was slain. And we would rejoice in the assurance, that he who was crucified is now enthroned, and that he who died to make an atonement, ever liveth to make intercession. But alas! we are naturally insensible to this revelation of thy character. We are alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in us, because of the blindness of our hearts. And even after becoming disciples, our obedience is so partial and polluted, that we must confess ourselves unprofitable servants. Therefore would we implore thee to have mercy upon us. As thou didst at first command the light to shine out of darkness, do thou now shine in our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of thy law: and in the marvellous light of the gospel, let us see the loveliness, and feel the preciousness, and experience the attraction of the Saviour. Make us willing to forfeit every friendship, and sacrifice every interest, rather than part from him. While we praise him for the benefits we receive, may we go after him in the course of holiness: and may his exceeding great and precious promises excite us to follow him through bad as well as good report. And grant, O God, that we may now experience the everlasting consolation and good hope through grace of thy people, and may be made meet in due time for the glory of heaven. Have compassion on those in other lands who are yet sitting in darkness, and those in our own, whom the God of this world hath blinded, so that they believe not. Have compassion also on the poor and afflicted: and make us willing, according to our ability, to relieve and comfort them. Watch over us during the night: and if raised up by thy providence on a new day, may it be spent in thy fear. O hear us for the sake of Jesus, to whom we would ascribe everlasting praise. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JUDGES II.

O THOU, whose name alone is Jehovah, and who art most high over all the earth, we would rejoice in our privilege of worshipping thee. The gods which the heather worship are dumb idols; they

cannot hear or help their votaries. But thou art the living and the true God. Thou hast created the heavens and the earth. Thy kingdom ruleth over all, and what thou pleasest that thou doest in heaven, and on earth, and in all deep places. To thee also belong all perfection and excellence; and from thee are derived all goodness and blessedness. Unto thy name, therefore, alone would we render the humble tribute of our prayer and praise. And yet, O Lord, well may we be ashamed and blush to lift up our faces before thee. Thou hast nourished us and brought us up as children, but we have rebelled against thee. We have experienced the riches of thy goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering, but we have thence taken occasion to sin against thee more heinously. We have forsaken thee, the fountain of living waters, and have hewn out unto ourselves broken cisterns that can hold no water. We are by nature sold under sin, yea, we have sold ourselves into the hands of our enemies; and the more we are tried by temptation, the more deceitful and wicked are our hearts proved to be. Surely it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, and because his compassions fail not. O teach us, gracious God, to humble ourselves before thee, and to sorrow for our sins after a godly sort. Give us that godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation, that needeth not to be repented of. May we know the evil and bitterness of sin; and under an apprehension of thy mercy in Christ Jesus, return to thee with our whole heart. And forbid, Lord, that our goodness should be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew, which soon goeth away. May we bring forth fruit meet for repentance, and daily grow in grace, and have our path as that of the just, be like the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Sensible of our own guilt and weakness, we would bless thee for that fulness of merit and grace which it hath pleased thee should dwell in Christ, and would entreat thee, for his sake, to forgive our manifold iniquities, and to enable us in time to come to do thy holy will. Surrounded as we are by spiritual enemies on every side, we beseech thee for thine effectual aid. May we ever fight the good fight of faith; may we overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and be more than conquerors through him that loved us. Have mercy, O Father, upon our brethren. Hear the groanings of the afflicted. Supply the wants of the needy. Redress the wrongs of the injured. And reveal thyself graciously to every mourning spirit. Grateful for thy watchfulness over us by night, we cast ourselves anew on thy care. Keep us in thy fear all the day long. And O be thou our present and everlasting portion, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—LUKE XIX. 1-27.

HEAVENLY Father, let us have access to thee at this time, through Jesus Christ, by the Spirit, and give us the sweet and satisfying privilege of fellowship while we call on thy name. We would now

present ourselves living sacrifices unto thee, which is our reasonable service. From thee are all our talents derived. Thou hast bestowed on us many powers and privileges, many means and opportunities of usefulness. And blessed be thy name, that, as thou hast commanded us to lay them out in thy service, thou art a gracious Master, and requirest of us nothing which thou art not willing to enable us to perform. And yet, alas! we have multiplied our iniquities against thee. We are sinners by nature and by practice. With our lives, if not with our lips, we have often said, 'we are our own, who is Lord over us?' and yielding to the temptations of the world, we have, instead of consecrating all thy gifts to thy glory, either openly rebelled, or secretly disobeyed. And in consequence, O Lord, we desire to feel that we are lost, deserving of thy wrath, and unable to redeem our souls from destruction. But we rejoice to know, that thy Son came to seek and to save such as we are: and that, having shed his precious blood, to open for us the way of salvation, his language still is, 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me.' O help us then, we pray thee, to welcome Jesus into our hearts, in faith and love. May we receive him joyfully, and make him all our desire, that he may be all our salvation. May our dependence be alone on his finished righteousness. And grant, O God, that while we glory in his cross, we may bow to his sceptre. May we be willing to have him to reign over us. Whether it be little or much that we are intrusted with, may we have grace to be faithful: and instead of being wicked and slothful servants, let us occupy affectionately and diligently all the talents thou hast committed to us. We would keep in mind the second and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To the time of his return may we daily look forward, and be giving diligence, that we may be found of the Lord in peace when he cometh. O do thou cause salvation to come to this house. May we all be interested in the everlasting covenant: and being united in the bonds of Christian love, be prepared for dwelling with our Saviour in heaven. And grant that thy kingdom may immediately appear, and speedily come over all the earth. Be our guardian by night as thou hast been by day. May our sleep be refreshing; and being raised up by thy good providence on a new morning, may our lives be devoted to thy service. Hear us in heaven, and exceed all our requests, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JUDGES IV.

O LORD God of Israel, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Thy works are perfect, and thy ways are judgment. Thou art a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right art thou. But we, thy subjects have rebelled against

thee In thy sight we have done evil. We have provoked thee, the holy One, to anger. May the revelation of thy wrath against all unrighteousness and ungodliness of men, duly affect our consciences. May we, from thy judgments inflicted on thy people of old, and from the punishment of their oppressors, and from thy judgments with which at any time we or others are visited, learn righteousness. May the instructions addressed to us in thy word, be by us received and improved. Be merciful to our unrighteousness; our sins and iniquities do thou remember no more. Through the righteousness of the Redeemer may we be freely justified; by thy Spirit may we be sanctified. On the path of duty which thou hast prescribed, however difficult and arduous it may be, may we enter, and in it do thou enable us to persevere. Avert from us the judgments which we deserve. Protect us from the dangers which threaten us. In the spiritual conflicts to which thou dost call us, may we be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. May we, by thy grace, be made more than conquerors. Whilst for our personal salvation we pray, we would also present to thee our supplications for our country; that in it the wickedness of the wicked may come to an end, and that, by all classes of the community, the righteousness which exalteth a nation may be cultivated. In all nations may the word of truth be diffused and preached. May thy kingdom come. Vouchsafe to us, this day, thy blessing with all its enjoyments, thy direction in every duty, and thy grace to resist every temptation. May we walk by faith. May we ever live to thy glory. And all that we ask is in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—LUKE XIX. 28-48.

O LORD, through Christ Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, we would this evening approach the throne of grace. O may we obtain mercy, and find grace to help us, in the time of need. Look upon us not as we are ourselves, but look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. May it be our privilege to joy in thee, through our Lord Jesus, by whom we have received reconciliation. We bless thee for the revelation of thy nature and thy perfections, in him who is the brightness of thy glory and the express image of thy person. And we pray, we may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent, whom to know is life eternal. In his mission into the world thou hast manifested thy love; for herein indeed is love, not that we loved thee, but that thou loved us, and gavest thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We thank thee for the proofs which we possess of the truth of his mission, of his qualifications as Mediator, of his tender compassion, of his matchless love. May the things which belong to our peace with thee, through him, engage our attention; with the blessings which he is exalted as a Prince and a Saviour to bestow, may we be enriched. To him we

would render the tribute of homage, and gratitude, and obedience. Blessed be the King that came in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. We desire that the blessings of his gospel may be universally disseminated. O may those that are his enemies be subdued. May those who are ignorant of him, be taught to know the truth as it is in him, and to esteem the knowledge of Jesus Christ as the excellency of knowledge. May those who have hitherto rejected him be persuaded to embrace him, and to glory in his cross. Have pity on the Jews, who, for their sins, have been given up to spiritual blindness, and who have been subjected to all those judgments which the Saviour foretold. May the Gentiles submit themselves to him. In the efforts made by thy people for the accomplishment of these ends, may we feel a deep interest, and be enabled by thy grace actively to co-operate. In thy service may we ever be, like Jesus our master, devoted and zealous. In the perusal of thy word, and in the exercises of devotion may we ever delight. We commit ourselves and all who are near and dear to us, to thy protection during the watches of the night. We pray for the continuance of thy goodness and mercy. We beseech thee to work in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in him, according to the grace of our God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. In his name we offer up these our petitions, and for his sake may we find acceptance in thy sight. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JUDGES V.

O LORD, each day we rise we will praise thee. We would remember the wonderful works which thou hast wrought. Great and marvellous are all thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are all thy ways, O thou King of saints. Thy dealings towards thy church and people have been ever faithful and gracious. Thou didst show thy glory to the tribes of Israel, and didst publish to them thy statutes. Thou gavest them victory over their enemies. Thou didst put them in possession of the land of promise. Thou didst visit them with judgments when they chose new gods. Thou didst recover them from their backslidings, and didst constrain them willingly to engage in thy service, and didst teach them to rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord, even the righteous acts towards the inhabitants of his villages in Israel. To us also thou hast displayed thy glory; to us thou hast granted the privilege to read in our own tongue the wonderful works of God. Make us wise unto salvation. Our transgressions do thou forgive, for the sake of him who died the just for the unjust. Heal thou our backslidings. Make us thy people, and be thou our God. We are not our own, but thine; may we therefore glorify thee in our bodies and our spirits which are thine. Teach us to remember our manifold obligations to thee. Our pres-

ervation up to the present day, proves to us that thou art long-suffering. Every moment we are indebted to thy bounty. All our religious advantages flow from thee. May we be ever grateful to thee, the God of our salvation. May we be preserved from the evil that is in the world. May we ever cultivate submission to thy will; may we grow in conformity to thine image. May Christ be found in us the hope of glory. May thy Spirit dwell in us, and being led by the Spirit, may we have the evidence in ourselves, and exhibit it to the world, that we are the sons of God. O Lord, may all ranks of men be made thy willing people in the day of thy power. May our rulers, and our governors, and those that sit in judgment, praise the Lord. May all the people walk in thy statutes. May we be honored to be fellow-workers with God, in extending the knowledge and promoting the influence of the gospel. Remove the obstacles that oppose its success. May those who enjoy it consider the curse pronounced in thy word against those who come not to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Let them that love thee be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. O Lord, deny us not thy grace. Turn not away thy face from us, nor our prayer from thee. Let thy blessing be upon us continually. And all we ask is in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—LUKE XX. 1-26.

O LORD, we this evening bless thee for the protection of thy providence during the past day, and for the goodness which thou hast made to pass before us. Our short-comings in discharge of the duties in which we have been engaged, we acknowledge. Our sins, in thought, and word, and deed, we confess. God be merciful to us sinners. Speak peace to us, and let us not again return to folly and to sin. Establish us in the faith of the gospel. May we be begotten again by the word of truth, that we may be a kind of first-fruits of thy creatures. May we receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save our souls. May we justly appreciate and carefully improve the privileges we enjoy. Thou didst of old speak unto the fathers by thy servants the prophets; in these last days thou hast spoken to us by thy Son. Forbid, O God, that we should neglect the great salvation of which he is author. We believe in him as the Son of God—the beloved of thee, the Father. O may we reverence him, may we love him, may we obey him, and may the lives which we live in the flesh be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us and who gave himself for us. Out of his fulness may we receive grace for grace. May we be complete in him. Like him may we be holy, harmless, and undefiled, and separate from sinners. Through him may we have a title to the heavenly inheritance; and do thou, by thy word and Spirit, work in us a meetness for the possession and enjoyment of it. May we be steadfast, immovable

always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labor in the Lord shall not be in vain. We pray for the whole human family. May they be blessed in Jesus, and call him blessed. May all who rule over their fellow-men be just. May we, in our respective stations, render to all their due. To the varied circumstances of thy people accommodate the supplies of thy grace. Grant health to the sick, counsel to the perplexed, comfort to the sorrowful, and salvation to the dying. To thee, the Shepherd of Israel, who slumberest not nor sleepest, we commit ourselves and all our interests. Encompass us with thy favor as with a shield. May thy presence ever go with us, and finally may we obtain the rest which remaineth for thy people. And all that we ask is in the name of Jesus. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—JUDGES VI.

O LORD our God, we desire to feel that it is of thy mercy that we are permitted to behold the light of this morning, and again to draw near to thee in prayer. We are verily guilty in thy sight, and instead of being the children of many mercies, we might have been visited with the tokens of thine anger. We give thanks at the remembrance of thy mercy; and especially do we desire to bless thee for Jesus Christ the Son of thy love, through whom we have access unto thee; and we now pray thee, for his sake, to pardon all our sins, and to pass by our unnumbered transgressions. Teach us ever to bear in mind, that the way of the wicked shall not prosper, but that there is a great reward to them that keep thy law; for godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. May our minds be habitually under the conviction, that it is in thee we live and move, and that it is by thee our lot is ordered in the world. Let us never forget our dependence upon thee, and do thou ever direct our steps. Surround us with thy favor as with a shield, and give thy holy angels charge concerning us, that our enemies may never obtain dominion over us. Make a hedge of protection about us, and our house, and all that we have round about, that no evil may befall us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. Amid the various pursuits and avocations of this life, may we never forget that one thing is needful, and may we make choice of that good part which will never be taken from us. Looking unto Jesus, may we renounce every other ground of confidence, and may he be made of thee, unto us, wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and complete redemption. May we be effectually called unto fellowship with him, so that having him formed in us the hope of glory, we may be daily growing up into a meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. Sanctify us wholly through thy truth, and may the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom. Beautify us with thine own likeness, and clothe us with thy

salvation. Through faith in the blood of atonement, may our consciences be purged from dead works to serve the living God. O that Christ may indeed be precious unto us, as he is to all them that believe; and may we feel the constraining influence of his love in our hearts, sweetly drawing us to himself. And grant, that when the journey of life is over, our dwelling-place may be in thy house above forever. Our friends and brethren we commend unto thee. May all who are connected with us, be interested in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, and be kept by thy mighty power through faith unto eternal life. Increase the number of them who believe, and greatly extend the boundaries of the Redeemer's empire, in the increasing diffusion of the gospel. May all nations be blessed in Christ, and all people call him blessed. Let thy good providence watch over us this day, and may the outgoings of the morning and of the evening, be made to rejoice. Prosper us in our lawful affairs, and enrich all our temporal comforts with a blessing. Hear, O Lord, our humble prayer, forgive all our sins, and accept of our persons, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—LUKE XX. 27-47.

O MOST merciful God, we draw near to thee this evening, believing that thou art, and that thou art the bountiful rewarder of all those that truly seek thee. We give praise to thy holy name for the blessed hope of immortality through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. O may this hope animate us to a faithful and vigorous prosecution of the Christian warfare, that we may, through grace, obtain the victory over sin and death. Ever looking unto Jesus, and relying on his grace, may we put far away from us all lying vanities, taking his word as the rule of our life, and seeking his Spirit as the sanctifier of our hearts. May we, without wavering, believe on him as the Messiah promised of old, who, in the fulness of time, came into the world in the likeness of sinful flesh, and put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Through faith in his blood, may we receive the remission of our sins, and by his righteousness imputed unto us, may we be justified; and may our faith be productive of those fruits of holiness which are to thy praise and glory. Teach us ever to bear in mind, that the chief end of man is to glorify thee; and as it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps, be thou graciously pleased to give us of thine own wherewith to serve thee. Make thy grace sufficient for us, and perfect thy strength in our weakness. Carry forward within us the good work of sanctification, until there be formed within us a perfect meetness for glory, honor, and immortality. In the recollection of all thy goodness to us this day, we desire now to offer up our thanksgiving. Thy good providence has watched over us, protecting us from unseen dangers, and loading us with unmerited mercies. And now that the shadows of

evening have again closed over our dwelling, we beseech thee to spread over us the shelter of thy protection during the night watches. When we lay us down to sleep, do thou, O Lord, sustain us, and cause us to rest in safety. May we remember thee upon our beds, and may our reins instruct us in the night season. When we awake also, may we remember thee, and may we arise to praise thee. We desire also to bear upon our minds at the throne of grace, all our brethren of mankind. Bless the whole household of faith, and let the wicked be turned unto thee. Prosper the interests of the kingdom of Christ in every land, and give light to them who sit in darkness, and in the region and shadow of spiritual death. Let thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let our native land be the object of thy peculiar care. In all our borders may there be peace, and in all our dwelling-places may there be presented unto thee the morning and the evening sacrifice. Prosper and protect the true church of Christ, and let thy blessing abide upon all who love her peace. Give consolation to the afflicted, and sanctify all their trials. Bless all dear to us, and connected with us; make them and us partakers of the fulness of Christ, and heirs of the inheritance that is above. Let our humble prayers find acceptance in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our strength, and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—JUDGES VII.

O LORD God of hosts, who is like unto thee among the gods; who among the sons of the mighty can be compared unto our God? Thou rulest supreme among the armies of heaven, and doest according to thy will among the children of men. None can stay thy hand from working, or say unto thee, with efficacious voice, What doest thou? Thy people of old, when they trusted in thee, were not put to shame. In the day of battle, thou didst make them strong, and with the breath of thy mouth thou didst scatter the enemy. We desire to give thanks for all the deliverances which thou didst work out for our fathers in former generations, and we rejoice in the assurance therein conveyed to us, their children, that thou wilt be a very present help in the time of trouble. O teach us ever to make thee our confidence, and to bear in mind that while they who are far from thee shall perish, peace shall be the portion of those that seek thee. Convince us of sin, which is the cause of our misery, and lead us to the blood of sprinkling which cleanseth us from all sin. Through faith in the blood of the cross may we be purged from dead works; and may we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. Let us not be conformed to this world, but may we be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Neither let us think of ourselves

more highly than we ought to think, but soberly, according to the measure of faith. Seeing we are not our own, but bought with a price, even with the precious blood of Christ, may we not live unto ourselves, but unto him who died and rose again. May our souls be purified in obeying the truth through the Spirit, and may it be as our meat and drink to do thy holy will. We give thee praise for the rest which thou hast given us during the night, and for the circumstances of peace and comfort in which we have beheld the light of the morning. O let us never forget that sleep is a blessing for which we are indebted to thee, and that when we awake in the morning, it is because thou sustainest us. May thy gracious hand lead us this day, that we may not swerve from thy commandments. While prosecuting the business of life, may we never let go our integrity, that our hearts may not reproach us so long as we live. May we ever be just and kind to all about us, loving our brethren with pure hearts, fervently. And when the business of the day is over, and we have again assembled together in our peaceful dwelling, may we encompass the family altar, and present unto thee the evening sacrifice, committing ourselves anew to thy gracious protection. We commend to thy care all our friends and relations. Protect them by thy power, and give them their portion with thy chosen and sanctified ones. Forgive our enemies, and dispose us heartily to forgive all who may be unkind to us. Give thy consolations to the sorrowful, and revive the hopes of the contrite and the desponding. Spare useful lives, and take the dying to thyself. All our interests, temporal and spiritual, we commend unto thee; undertake for us in all our undertakings. Be our God and our guide, even unto death, and our portion forever, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—LUKE XXI.

O THOU who dwellest in the heavens, and whose kingdom ruleth over all, who shall not fear thee and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy? With humility and godly fear we desire to think of thy greatness and of thy glorious excellency; and with shame and contrition we acknowledge that we have sinned against thy divine majesty. Justly mightest thou write bitter things against us in thine anger. We confess that we have often neglected duty, and often been unthankful for mercies. We draw near to thee in the all-prevailing name of our gracious Redeemer, beseeching thee to have mercy upon our unrighteousness, and to purge away all our sin. O may we ever be enabled to look by faith to the blood of the cross, and to build upon the sure foundation which thou hast laid in Zion. May the blessing of the covenant be applied to us by the Spirit, and our souls sealed to the day of redemption. And as we know not in what hour the Son of man cometh, may we be ever watching. Considering that the time is short, may we number our days and apply

our hearts to wisdom. If in our future pilgrimage, trials should be appointed to us, may we experience thy promised consolations. And seeing we are pilgrims and strangers here below, may we ever look forward to the appearing of the great God and our Saviour, believing that our redemption draweth nigh. May the solemnizing conviction that these heavens and this earth shall pass away, and the elements melt with fervent heat, and that all kindreds and nations of the world shall be assembled to judgment, stimulate us to fidelity and zeal in thy service, and to unwearied preparation for the coming of our Lord. Grant, most gracious God, that when that solemn day shall come, we may meet our Redeemer with joy, and be welcomed by him into the paradise above. We pray that all our friends and kindred may be interested in the great salvation, and may be preserved by thy mighty power, through faith, unto eternal life. May the sick and the sorrowful be the objects of thy tender care and divine compassion. May the afflictions of the afflicted be sanctified, and may the sorrows of the sorrowful be exchanged for joy. May such as are drawing near to death be prepared for a happy eternity. In the solemn prospect of death, may they be enabled to commit their spirits into the hands of the divine Redeemer, in the blissful hope of that crown of life which he will bestow upon all his faithful followers. We desire to offer up our thanksgiving for all our family comforts. Thou art giving us day by day our daily bread, and year by year our annual supply. Thou hast instituted those endearing relationships whereby we are made helpers and comforters to one another in this vale of tears. O may we never forget to offer up to thee the incense of our thankfulness. Thy kind providence has watched over us this day, and made our going out and our coming in to be in peace. We commit ourselves to thy fatherly care and guardianship through the night watches. May we enjoy quiet and refreshing sleep. Bring us to the light of thy holy day in health of body and soundness of mind, and prepare us for the services of thy house of prayer. May we keep thy day holy, accounting it the holy of the Lord, and honorable. And in thy great mercy fit us for the purer services of thy temple above, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Seventeenth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LI.

OUR Father which art in heaven, we thank thee for the quiet rest of the past night, and the mercies of the present morning. But far more we bless thee for the wonders thou hast done for our souls.

We acknowledge our transgressions, O give us to feel the infinite weight of them, the infinite vileness of them. Against thee, thee only, have we sinned; against thee, our heavenly Father; we have sinned against thee, O Saviour, in counting thy blood an unholy thing; we have sinned against thee, O Holy Spirit. We cannot justify ourselves. Ever since we were born, we have been hell-deserving in thy sight. Behold we were shapen in iniquity, and in sin did our mother conceive us. But we know that there is forgiveness with thee; we know that thy glorious son died for the ungodly, and we remember how he said, Look unto me all ye ends of the earth, and be ye saved. Lord, we look to Jesus, may we be saved. Wash us in his blood, and we shall be whiter than snow. Make us to hear this day joy and gladness, that our broken bones may rejoice. Thou that didst open the heart of Lydia, open our hearts to attend to the things that are spoken. May we feel this day that our sins are forgiven us, for his name's sake. Hide thy face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. And now, O Lord, if thou hast forgiven us, if we are indeed in the light of thy countenance, if thy servants have found favor in thy sight, give us a token for good; make us new creatures. We are the clay, and thou art our potter, for we are all the work of thy hand. Create in us a clean heart. We have no confidence in ourselves. Thou alone art able to keep us from falling. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation, and uphold us with thy free Spirit. Grant, O Lord, that we may this day feel forgiveness so sweet, and be so filled with the Holy Ghost, that we shall teach transgressors thy ways, and that sinners may be converted unto thee. Especially we pray, that all thy faithful servants in the ministry, may this day speak because they believe. Lord, take them into thy council, fill them with thy Spirit. Let them come behind in no gift, and may they speak the word boldly as they ought to speak. May our souls be refreshed, quickened, edified. May weary sinners be led to Jesus, and to rest, and may sinners this day be converted unto thee. Help us to sing anew of thy righteousness. Open our lips, and our mouth shall show forth thy praise. Help us to offer thee a broken spirit. May we never open our mouth any more but in praises, because thou hast been pacified toward us. Remember thine ancient people the Jews. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Fulfil all thy rich promises to them. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. May Christ be preached this day in every land. Give testimony to the word of thy grace. And may his glorious name be blessed forever. Let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Then shall our prayers be ended, and our praises be begun for eternity. Unto him who alone is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think; unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS LII. LIII. LIV.

O most blessed God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; let our prayer come before thee like incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. When the shades of evening draw close around us, do thou, by thy blessed Spirit, draw near and make thine abode with us, for the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. Deal bountifully with thy servants, that we may live and keep thy word. Open our eyes, that we may see wondrous things out of thy law. How truly thy word which we have read, describes the condition of every one of us as we are in ourselves. O Lord, thou knowest what is in man. O Lord, convince us of sin; may we never open our mouth to defend ourselves any more. May we stand guilty before thee, for in thy sight there shall no flesh living be justified. If thou wert to deal with us as we are in ourselves, thou wouldst destroy us forever; thou wouldst root us out of the land of the living, thou wouldst cut us off in thy truth. But thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; we flee to the refuge which thou hast provided for the ungodly, we would lay our hands upon the head of the divine Lamb, we would take him as our surety. Lord, increase our faith. To us who believe, make Christ still more precious. May he be the desire of our hearts, fairer to us than the children of men, the chief among ten thousand, and altogether lovely. Enable us to cleave to him with full purpose of heart. May we be filled this night with joy, and with the Holy Ghost. We pray to be made holy. Into thy hand we commend our spirits; thou hast redeemed us, Lord God of truth. Purify us unto thyself a peculiar family, zealous of good works. Make our heart like a well-watered garden. Take out every root of bitterness. Implant every grace in us; make us like a green olive-tree in the house of God. May thy Spirit dwell in us, and may we be filled with all the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, unto thy praise and glory. Help us not to be afraid of our enemies; we know that if we live godly in the world, we must suffer persecution. Enable us to say, Behold, God is mine helper, the Lord is with them that uphold my soul. Help us to praise thee for all that thou hast done for our souls. Follow the services of this holy day with thy blessing, which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow. May the Spirit be given us as on the day of Pentecost. May many be pricked in their hearts, and this night asking the way to Zion, with their face thitherward. May thy children be filled with peace, and with thy Holy Spirit. O that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion; may Israel, through our mercy, speedily obtain mercy. May they be like a dew from the Lord, in the midst of many peoples. Thy kingdom come. Keep us looking for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of him, who is the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. May we be among those that

shall be made like him, for we shall see him as he is. Give us this night the sleep of thy beloved, watch over our dwelling, help our dear friends, comfort all that mourn, and let peace be upon Israel. May the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our heart, be acceptable with thee, through Jesus Christ our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—JUDGES IX.

O LORD, thou art light, and in thee there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with thee and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth. Help us to walk in the light, as thou art in the light, and then we shall have fellowship with thee, and the blood of Jesus Christ thy Son cleanseth us from sin. We praise thee for all thy care of us ever since we had a being. How precious are thy thoughts unto us, O God; how great is the sum of them. If we should count them, they are more in number than the sand; when we awake we are still with thee. But far more we praise thee for the unspeakable gifts of thy grace. Thou hast loved us with an everlasting love, and therefore, with loving-kindness hast thou drawn us. We praise thee for thy holy sabbath-day. If any secure sinners have been awaked to cry, God be merciful to me a sinner, thy holy name be praised. If any afflicted soul, tempest-tossed and not comforted, has been brought to rest on the finished work of Emmanuel, thy holy name be praised. If any of thy dear children have been brought to know more of Jesus, to receive more of the Comforter, to walk more closely with thee, thy holy name be praised. For all the light, and peace, and quickening, which our souls have received out of thy law, we bless thy holy name. We will never forget thy precepts, for with them thou hast quickened us. We praise thee for thy holy word which we have read this morning. We know that whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning; that we, through patience and comfort of the scriptures, may have hope. Make this scripture profitable to us for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness. Grant, O Lord, that we, being united to the Lord Jesus, and receiving daily supplies of thy Holy Spirit, may be renewed in the spirit of our minds. Make us partakers of the divine nature, that we may escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Free us from the sins of Abimelech, for they are the very sins of our natural heart. Turn away our eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken us in thy way. Remove from us the way of lying, and grant us thy law graciously. Hide that word of thine in our hearts, Lie not one to another, for ye are members one of another. Make us companions of all them that fear thee, and keep thy precepts; may we know that we are passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. Make us merciful, as our father in heaven is merciful, tender-hearted,

forgiving one another, even as thou for Christ's sake hast forgiven us. Put into our hearts all the graces that were in the heart of Jotham. Make us bold in thy cause. Help us not to be ashamed of Christ in this crooked and perverse generation. Help us to speak of thy testimonies before kings, and not to be ashamed. Fill us with the wisdom that cometh down from above; make us wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. Above all give us thy holy guidance. May the opening of our lips be right things. May our speech this day be with grace, seasoned with salt, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Lord, teach us how surely thou hast appointed a day in which thou shalt judge the world in righteousness, by that man whom thou hast ordained. If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who shall stand? May we be found in Christ in that day, washed, covered, justified, accepted in the Beloved. When thou renderest the evil of the wicked upon their own heads, may we obtain mercy of the Lord in that day. Be with all our dear friends. May the word and prayer be blessed to them. Be with all who are sick and afflicted; make all their bed to them in their sickness. Make us compassionate as Christ was. Preserve our going out and coming in this day. May peace be upon Israel; and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with our spirits. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—LUKE XXII. 1-34.

OUR heavenly Father, follow with thy blessing the reading of thy holy word. Hide in our hearts the very lessons it was intended to teach us. Sanctify us through thy truth; thy word is truth. When we read of Judas, O Lord, teach us to be very jealous over ourselves, and to inquire diligently, lest after all we also should be cast away. Show us that we may know much of the Saviour, that we may call him Lord, Lord, that we may do wonders in his name, and yet betray him after all. Convince us of sin by thy Holy Spirit. Make us lie infinitely low before thee because of our vileness. Convince us that we never can justify ourselves in thy pure sight. Give us a soul-refreshing view of the excellency of the Lord Jesus. Give us a saving hold upon him as all our righteousness and all our strength. Give us to be vitally united to him as living branches to the true vine. Make us confident that he which hath begun a good work in us will perform it to the day of Christ Jesus. When we read that the disciples found everything as Jesus had said unto them, make us to set to our seal that this is true. O Saviour, it is impossible with thee to lie; thou keepest truth forever. O Lord, help us to believe that we shall find as thou hast said. Melt our hearts by a sight of the great love of Jesus. As he gave himself to be broken for us, so may we freely accept of him, and may our joy be full. Make us to love that holy ordinance wherein we testify that we close with him as all our salvation and all our desire. May we love to do this in

remembrance of him. When we read of thy disciples striving who should be greatest, may we be ashamed of the sins that mingle with our holiest services. O Lord, we blush when we think of our sins. How often have we sinned thy love away. Plead thy blood and righteousness, O our risen Saviour, our advocate with the Father. Cover all our sins. Say to us, Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more. Change our proud, selfish hearts. Give us the same mind which also was in Christ Jesus. Give us to wash one another's feet; to do to one another as Jesus did unto us. Lord, deliver us from our spiritual enemies. Let us not be ignorant of satan's devices. We know that he desires to have us more than the world, that he may sift us like wheat. O Saviour, pray for us, that our faith may not fail. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Help us to submit ourselves to thee: to resist the devil, and he will flee from us. Guard us during the silent watches of this night. Thou that keepest Israel never slumberest nor sleepest. Keep our dear friends from evil. Preserve their souls. Strengthen the sick upon the bed of languishing. Comfort the bereaved. Give bread to the poor. Be with those that are afar off upon the sea. Pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh. Let the wilderness become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest. Hasten the coming of the Saviour. Make us love his appearing. Why is thy chariot so long of coming; why tarry the wheels of thy chariot? Glory be to thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JUDGES XIII. XIV.

ALMIGHTY God, we bless thee, that we are permitted to approach thee this morning, with our humble adorations. In the remembrance of thy glory and goodness, we would rejoice and be glad exceedingly, for thou hast graciously discovered them in thy dealings with us. Stir up within us a lively sense of that tender mercy of thine, which is over all thy works; and pour out upon us the spirit of supplication, and of prayer, that when we bow before thy throne, our fellowship may truly be with thee, and with thy Son, Jesus Christ. The day, O God, is thine; the night also is thine; thou hast prepared the light and the sun. In mercy hast thou prepared them for our infirmities; and in wisdom hast thou adapted them to our necessities. We thank thee for the rest of the night, in which thou, who givest thy beloved sleep, hast watched over us, thyself neither slumbering nor sleeping. We thank thee, that thou hast brought us in safety to the morning light; and that ere the busy pursuits of day have called us apart, we are permitted, as a united family, to present ourselves before thee, in the assured hope of obtaining a father's blessing. O do thou mercifully accept of our thanksgivings,

and hear us in heaven. Thou, O most gracious God, knowest to what dangers and temptations we shall each be this day exposed; and thou, who art a heart-searching, and rein-trying God, knowest what evil dispositions are lurking in our hearts, ready to betray us into sin. O grant us thy grace accordingly. Especially grant us a spiritual sense of guilt, and a humbling apprehension of our own weakness. Forbid that we should go forth to our worldly employments, in a worldly spirit. Forbid that these employments should excite in us the accursed love of the world, or the covetousness which is idolatry. While striving to be diligent in lawful business, may we also be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, doing all to thy glory. O keep and bless us, in soul and body, through all the business and events of the day, that, when evening shall return with its quiet and repose, we may meet again, a happy and united family, at thy holy altar, there to pledge ourselves anew to thy service, and to have our languid sentiments of piety refreshed from thy sacred presence. Bless, O God, that portion of thy word which has now engaged our thoughts; may its lessons be brought home to our hearts, with demonstrations of the Spirit, and with power. We give thee thanks that we have the privilege of living under a settled government, and are not left, as sheep without a shepherd, every man to do what is right in his own eyes. Bless, O God, the civil authorities which thou hast set over us. May that portion of thy power which thou hast entrusted to them, be exercised for thy glory, and the good of the people. Grant that we, under the shadow of their protection, may be enabled, by thy grace, to lead lives of faith and holiness; resting with an unwavering firmness on thy promises, which are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. Having no confidence in the flesh, but looking exclusively to the merits of Jesus, our blessed Saviour, as the only ground of our acceptance with thee, may we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God that worketh in us, both to will and to do of his good pleasure. And, O God, give us that charity which is the bond of perfectness, that we may walk in love as Christ also hath loved us. In these our prayers, do thou graciously hear us. Mercifully forgive our sins; and to thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be all the glory ascribed, now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—LUKE XXII. 35-71.

OUR Father who art in heaven, again we lift up our voices to thee, our unseen, but ever-present and gracious protector. What, O Lord, is man, that thou rememberest him? Children of the dust, and of a day, we are crushed before the moth, and from the highest pride of life must look forward to the grave as our resting-place. Guilty and corrupt, we have incurred thy just displeasure, and de-

serve no better a doom than to lie down with everlasting burnings. Yet would we exalt thy name together, because thou hast had compassion on us in our low estate, because thou hast visited and redeemed thy people. Though thou art the high and lofty One who inhabitest eternity, thou dwellest also with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Not unto us, O God, not unto us, but unto thy name be the glory. Thou didst send thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life. We bless thee, O God, for what we have this evening heard of his sufferings in our behalf. We thank thee for the evidence which these sufferings afford of his intense and enduring love of man, and while we contemplate his incomprehensible agony, may we not only feel the stirrings of human sympathy, but may our souls also be led to loathe the sin whose guilt was laid upon him, and to cleave to him with confidence and love, as all our salvation and all our desire. To as many as receive him, thou givest power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in his name. May we so receive him by faith, and may he be formed in us, and abound the hope of glory. And, O God, enable us, under the inevitable calamities of life, to take him for our example in suffering. May we feel that even hereunto are we called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps. Through thy grace, may we, under every trial, and in our hours of darkest apprehension, be enabled to say from the heart, It is God, let him do what seemeth good in his sight; the cup which the Father hath given us, shall we not drink it? not our will, but thine be done. And especially, O God, grant us the grace of humility and meekness. May we watch always, and with a godly jealousy over our own hearts, knowing them to be deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. We look to thee, O Lord our God, for rest and protection throughout the night. In the insensibility of sleep, do thou watch over us, and so long as thou shalt hold our eyes waking, be our song in the night season, and let trouble be far from us. May our last conscious thoughts be of thee, and the great salvation which thou hast wrought for us, and when we awake may we still be with thee. Hear these our prayers, pardon our sins, and do to us, and for us more than we ask or think, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JUDGES XV.

EVERMORE, O God, hast thou made the outgoing of morning to rejoice before us. Day follows day into darkness, and night after night, each teaching its proper lesson, passes away forever, while we are left, preserved by thee, for purposes to be fully unfolded in eternity. O most merciful God, prepare us by thy grace for the fulfil-

ment of these purposes. And grant that in this fleeting succession of time and events, we may be brought so to remember our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. How much, O our Father, have we to thank thee for. Many are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward, they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee; if we would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. No more indeed may we look for miracles to bring us light and deliverance. A finished record of revelation, which thou hast mercifully granted us, is our pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, a light to our feet and a lamp to our path; the sword of the Spirit, to defend us from our spiritual enemies, and the instrument of bloodless conquests, to establish peace and good-will throughout the world. May thy kingdom come, when thy word shall be man's only and universal law. We thank thee, O Lord, for the wise and benevolent arrangements of thy providence. It is not for us to pierce the mystery in which its processes are involved. But there is no element at work in it which is unknown to thee, or beyond thy control. Thine own Spirit, which moved on the void and formless confusion of a newly created world, is still bringing order out of the most perplexed events; and thou art accomplishing thine own great and holy purposes, even by means of those agencies that seem the most turbulent and irregular. Thou stillest the noise of multitudes of waters, and the yet wilder passions that ferment in the tumults of the people. Thou makest the wrath of man to praise thee, and restrainest the remainder of his wrath. O enable us to set thee always before our eyes; to discern thee in all thy works and ways. Let thy Spirit, O God, go with us to the duties and occupations of this day. In the midst of its best enjoyments and busiest pursuits, may we still feel that this is not our rest, that here we have no continuing city. So may we use the world as not abusing it, knowing that the fashion thereof passeth away. May thy grace prevent us from setting our hearts on temporal things. May our conversation be without covetousness; may it be as becometh the gospel. Seeking growth in grace, and increase in the knowledge of divine things, may we advance daily in meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. Preserve us, O gracious Father, throughout this day from accident, and danger, and sudden death. Enable us to guard against the snares of the tempter, and to flee from every appearance of evil. And if thou shall see fit to spare us till evening shall once more bring us rest, may we all meet again in peace, to bow ourselves before thee. To thee, and to thy fatherly protection and love we commend ourselves, soul and body together. Never leave us, never forsake us. We are poor and needy; in thee only is our help found. Hear us in heaven, thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest answer and forgive, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—LUKE XXIII. 1-26.

It is good, O most high God, to give thanks unto thee, and to sing praises unto thy name; to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Teach us how to thank thee for thy merciful preservation of us during another day. And now, when night and silence are inviting us to repose, may our souls seek and find rest under the shadow of thy wings. As we recall and reflect on the occurrences of the day, may we be enabled to trace thy goodness through them all; or should they be marked by some dark dispensations—for thy thoughts are very deep—may we still adore and trust, when we cannot comprehend. We thank thee, O Lord, for our social capacities and enjoyments, from which we derive so many important benefits and consolations. Thou hast written the law of love in the parent's heart, so preparing the gentlest protection for the helplessness of childhood. Thou hast taught the attachments of the child who knows it not, to cling around the parent. O may thy blessing rest on our family affections; may they be hallowed, and strengthened by the more endearing bonds of a common faith in thy Son, and a common hope of heaven. Enable us to exercise them under a constant sense of our responsibility to thee. They are the gifts of thy fatherly love to us. May we employ them in provoking one another unto love, and to good works. And we bless thee, O Lord, that thou hast given us, in the gospel, a still richer display of thy love than anything in nature affords. Thou hast commended thy love to us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. We thank thee that thou hast thus brought life and immortality to light, opening up a new and living way of access for sinners to thyself. May we all, as conscience-stricken transgressors, be brought to lay hold of the hope set before us in the gospel, that being justified by the blood of Jesus, we may also be saved from wrath through him. So may we know and believe the love that thou hast to us. And in so far, O God, as we have already been brought to the knowledge of the truth, do thou, by thy grace, carry us on toward perfection. May we grow in practical holiness, in spirituality of mind, and in relish for those sacred exercises that bring us into thy presence. So may we attain unto the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, and to the full assurance of hope, gifts which are imparted by the Spirit, as the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession. We implore thy protection throughout the night. Bless us, O God, with rest, and in our rest. So long as thou shalt see fit to spare us, grant us health of body, and soundness of mind; or if thou shalt see that we need thy fatherly chastisements, O remember that we are dust, and lay thy hand gently upon us; and grant us the gifts of thy grace, that we may be patient under every trial, striving, by committing our case to thee, to turn our afflictions into blessings. Unto thee we commend ourselves for time and for eternity. The Lord

bles us and keep us ; the Lord cause his face to shine upon and be gracious unto us ; the Lord lift upon us the light of his countenance and give us peace. Hear, O God, and answer, and accept ; for all that we ask, is for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JUDGES XVI.

O GOD, we acknowledge our unworthiness, even to lift up our eyes to the place where thine honor dwelleth. Thou hast said, that the man who shall ascend into thy holy hill, is he who is of clean hands, and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. But we are altogether laden with iniquity. Our hands are not clean, neither is our heart pure. Our righteousnesses are as filthy rags ; we are a seed of evil-doers, children that are corrupters. Our own hearts condemn us because of our wickedness, and how much more thou who art greater than our hearts, and who canst not look on iniquity without abhorrence. It becometh us to lay our hands upon our mouths, and our mouths in the dust, and to cry, Unclean, unclean. Thou hast commanded us to love thee with all our heart, and soul, and strength, and mind ; yet thou hast often not been in all our thoughts, and we have given those affections to the creature which thou claimest for thyself. We confess that the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, have too often had dominion over us. We magnify thy name, O Lord, that thou hast encouraged us to cry unto thee, Be merciful to us for we are sinners. Thou hast invited the weary and heavy-laden to come to thee, that they may find rest. Thou hast, of thy free grace, contrived a way whereby we may be redeemed from all iniquity, and purified unto thee a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Grant unto us, O Lord, this great deliverance. Turn us from darkness to light, and from the power of satan unto thee, that we may receive the forgiveness of our sins and inheritance among them that are sanctified through the faith that is in Christ Jesus. For his sake receive us graciously, and love us freely. Heal all our backslidings, and remember us ever with that favor which thou bearest unto thine own. Let not sin have dominion over us any more. Thou alone hast power to effect our deliverance, and we pray that in this, the house of our bondage, thou wouldst compass us round with the song of victory. We rejoice in thy declaration, that if any man sin, he hath an advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ, the righteous. May he be our advocate and propitiation, that we may be delivered from the curse of thy violated law, and become sharers in the glorious liberty of the sons of God. We pray for thy guidance and protection this day. Do thou give us strength to discharge the duties to which, in the course of thy providence, we may be called. Keep our feet from falling, and our eyes from tears. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—LUKE XXIII. 27-56.

OUR heavenly Father, we praise and bless thee that thou hast so loved the world as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have eternal life. We rejoice in believing that there is now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. We rejoice in the perfect sufficiency of that atonement which has been offered for sin. In thee, O God, was our help found. From thee the word went forth, Save from going down to the pit, for I have found a ransom. Thou didst stretch forth thy hand to raise us up from the horrible pit and the miry clay, and to set our feet upon a rock. When the fulness of time had come, thou didst send forth thy Son, made of a woman, made under the law, that he might redeem them who were under the law, and that we through him might receive the adoption of sons. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us! Scarcely for a righteous man will one die, though, peradventure, for a good man some would even dare to die; but herein thou hast commended thy love unto us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. O God, give us more and more to feel the need we have of a Saviour, and to perceive the exceeding sinfulness of sin. We have nothing acceptable to render unto thee. Enable us then to present the sacrifice of humble and contrite hearts, which thou wilt not despise. May Christ be made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Our prayer is, that we may be found in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but the righteousness which is of God by faith. O Lord, we lament that we have so little regarded him who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. Teach us, we pray thee, to hate sin and to flee from it. Regarding it as the cause of all our Lord's sufferings, may we be taught to mourn over it with that godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of. Seeing, by our confession of Christ, we are no longer our own, but bought with a price, may we constantly and earnestly seek to glorify thee in our souls and bodies, which are thine. And do thou grant unto us that, being delivered from the power of all our spiritual enemies, we may henceforth be enabled to serve thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness, before thee all the days of our lives. Forgive, we beseech thee, the sins of which we have this day been guilty in thy sight. Be with us during the silent watches of the night. Thou who keepest Israel slumberest not nor sleepest. Give us refreshing sleep, and let no plague come nigh our dwelling. If thou sparest us till another day, grant that we may awake in health and strength, with minds disposed to love and to serve thee, for all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—JUDGES XVII.

O LORD, we bless thee that thou hast revealed thyself as the hearer and answerer of prayer, and hast invited all flesh to come unto thee, that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. Help us to draw near unto thee, at this time, with true hearts and with faith unfeigned, believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of all them that diligently seek thee. Raise our affections to the things which are above. Reveal to our consciences and hearts the realities of faith, that we may no longer be engrossed by the perishing objects of time, but may be led earnestly to seek that portion which shall never be taken away from us. Our hearts are deceitful above all things, O Lord, and desperately wicked. Do thou search and try us, and see if there be in us any wicked way, and lead us in the way everlasting. Suffer us not to be led captive by our own evil inclinations. Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation, and uphold us by thy free Spirit. Guide our feet into the way of peace, and restrain them from that path wherein destroyers go. We praise thee for the spiritual privileges thou hast conferred upon us. Thou hast given us thy word to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Thou hast given us line upon line, and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. At sundry times and in divers manners thou didst speak unto the fathers by the prophets, but in these last days thou hast spoken unto us by thy Son, and caused the light of thy truth to shine so clearly around us, that he who runneth may read. O God, impress upon our hearts a deep sense of our responsibility to thee for the use of all the privileges thou hast conferred upon us. May we ever remember, that to whom much is given of them also much shall be required, that if they escaped not who refused to hear him who spake to them on earth, much less shall we escape if we refuse to hear him who now speaketh to us from heaven. O let thy word have free course and be glorified in the midst of us. Bring its truths home to our hearts with the spirit of demonstration and with power. Let thy Spirit take up his indwelling in us, causing us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Remove the darkness from our understandings that we may clearly know the truth, and take away the hardness of our hearts, that we may run in the way of thy commandments. From thee, O Lord, cometh down every good and perfect gift, and with grateful hearts we acknowledge all the bounties of thy providence, the mercies of the past night and of this new day. Keep us in thy fear, and sustain us by thy power all the days of our appointed time upon the earth, and receive us at last into thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—LUKE XXIV. 1—35.

WE give glory unto thee, O Lord, that he who was delivered for our offences, hath been raised again for our justification. Our souls would magnify the Lord, and our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour, who hath regarded us in our low estate, and with his arm hath brought us salvation. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all our iniquities, who healeth all our diseases, who redeemeth our life from destruction, and crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. Glory be to God in the highest, that peace hath been proclaimed on the earth, and good-will to the fallen children of men. We rejoice to know that Christ hath finished transgression, and made an end of sin, and brought in everlasting righteousness; that he hath been raised as the first-fruits of them that slept, and that he will bring many sons unto glory. We rejoice that he hath been made head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all, that he hath spoiled principalities and powers, and made a show of them openly, and is now possessed of all power and authority over all things. We rejoice that in him we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities, but one who was in all points tempted like as we are; who in his exaltation is able to sympathize with us in all our afflictions and temptations, and to send us that relief and consolation of which we stand in need. O satisfy our souls with thy goodness. Out of the fulness that is in Christ, bestow upon us even grace for grace. Renew us in the spirit of our minds, and as thou hast set before us the hope of glory, give us a meetness for the inheritance of thy saints. Make thy way known, O Lord, upon the earth, and thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, Lord, let all the people praise thee. Behold how many nations are yet sitting in the region and shadow of death. Cause the light of the glorious gospel to shine upon them, and give them peace. Establish and extend, we pray thee, the dominion of the Lord Jesus; and where his name is already known, grant that his doctrine may be adorned by the lives and conversations of those who profess it. We commit ourselves to thy care and keeping this night. Watch over us, and give us quiet rest. We come to that fountain which hath been opened in the house of David for sin and uncleanness, that we may be washed therein, and purified from all our pollutions. Lord, make us clean every whit. And to thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, we would ascribe all glory, now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL I.

O LORD God Almighty, our Father, author of every good and perfect gift, hearer and answerer of prayer, Father of our Lord and

Saviour Jesus Christ, do thou this morning permit us, sinful and all unworthy though we be, to draw near to thee as thou art in Christ, a reconciled Father, who can now be just, and yet the justifier of the ungodly; and who dost, in thy Son, give us a free and ready access at all times, to a throne of grace. We come before thee, God of our fathers, holy and merciful Jehovah, not on the ground of any claim or merit of our own; we come as the lost, the undone, the polluted, the rebellious; in the prevailing name of that great advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, whose intercessions thou hearest always; and we implore thee, for his sake alone, to give to us the true spirit of prayer, a personal interest in his atoning death, and a personal likeness to his character. We rejoice that our Lord and Saviour hath brought life and immortality to light in the gospel; that types and shadows have passed away; that the Redeemer has come to teach us, to die for us, to reign in and over us; that we live in the noon-day of gospel light; and that now we need not to journey to a distant Shiloh to worship thee, but that every believing and prayerful family is to thee, the Almighty God, a Shiloh, tabernacle, and home. O grant, we pray thee, heavenly Father, that we may duly lay to heart and be improved by the passage of scripture now read by us; and in all our anxieties, may we habitually seek unto thee, as our comforter, our strength, our satisfying portion. Do thou, as our guide and protector, go with us this day, when we engage in whatever employments lie before us, giving us the right spirit of our station; protecting us, if it be thy will, from dangers, diseases, and death; enabling us to overcome temptation, and to walk closely with thee, our God, in whom we trust, in whom we rejoice. Thou hast mercifully watched over us during the night—thou hast caused us to experience of thy morning bounties; O teach us how to serve thee this day, and to live as though we knew it were to be our last. Hear us, O Lord God of hosts; forgive us, and accept us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—LUKE XXIV. 36-53.

O God, thou art our God, we will seek thee in faith and prayer; we will come to thee by that new and living way which thou hast opened and consecrated for us to walk in, making mention of the righteousness of Christ, and of his only, and rejoicing that the stone has been rolled away from the door of the sepulchre, and that Christ has risen a conqueror, and more than a conqueror. We praise and adore thee, almighty and most gracious Father, that, in our low and lost estate, thou hast cared for us, and hast given us thine own well-beloved Son, who has undertaken for us, and stood, in our room and stead, the great propitiatory sacrifice—the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world. To him, our Beloved, will we betake ourselves in all our distresses, until the day break and the shadows

flee away ; and we implore thee, heavenly Father, to enable us, with the feeling of the apostle, to say, We are crucified with Christ, nevertheless we live ; yet, not we, but Christ liveth in us, and the life which we now live in the flesh, we live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us. We rejoice in Jesus as a prince and deliverer, to rule over and defend his people by his sceptre ; as a priest, to intercede for them ; as a shepherd, to guide them. Our glorying is this, that when he ascended on high, he left behind him his peace—the peace that passeth understanding, as the inheritance of those who love his name, and are waiting for his appearing, when he shall come the second time in the glory of his Father, with the holy angels, to separate forever between the clean and the unclean, and to take his flock to himself, to feed them in the green pastures of heaven, and beside the still waters that are there. We desire, O Lord, to give thee thanks for bringing us to the close of another day of our lives. Thou hast supplied our returning wants, and showered thy liberal blessings upon us. We thank thee for all the temporal mercies of the week. With a still more fervent gratitude, we thank thee for the spiritual advantages with which, during the week, we have been favored : the many blessed opportunities of secret and family prayer, of reading the scriptures, of communing with thee in our hearts, and of practically obeying those laws of thine which are not grievous, but have so strong a tendency to confer health, contentment, and prosperity. We now implore thee, O Lord, to be preparing us for the solemnities of the coming sabbath. We would bear in mind, that this is the preparation, the day before the sabbath. Protect us during the night ; bring us, if it please thee, to the light of another day of the Son of man ; and grant to us and ours, thy presence and blessing at all times, and all we ask, is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Eighteenth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LV.

LORD God Almighty, who didst of thine infinite grace, and in thy great wisdom, devise a plan of deliverance for us, rebellious and iniquitous creatures ; most holy, most merciful Father ! do thou permit us, on this the blessed morning of our Lord's resurrection from the dead to draw near to thee, in adoring gratitude, and with songs of Hosanna on our lips. The glad sound is in our ears, Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters ; whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely ; that full and free offer we would

gladly embrace; and as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so would our souls pant after thee, O God. We were lying in our blood; we were brands already in the burning; we were exposed, forever, to all the fierceness of thy just indignation; we could do nothing to redeem our own souls, or to satisfy for our sins. Praise then, for evermore, to thy mercy and thy gentleness, which have made us great; for the cross has been raised on Calvary, and on that cross the great atonement has been completed; death and sin have been vanquished; the head of the serpent has been bruised; an everlasting righteousness has been brought in; there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit; and in Him who died for us and rose again, we will evermore rejoice, and do implore thee to grant, that the sabbaths we enjoy on earth may prove to us all to be a foretaste of an unending sabbath-rest in the bosom of Jesus above. Heavenly Father, we thank thee for thy preservation of us through the night. May we be in the Spirit on this blessed day; may thy servant who is to address us in thy name, have power given him to deliver such a message as shall suit our case, edify us, and bring us to thee, with a subdued and child-like heart. May we this day, under the preaching of the truth as it is in Jesus, experience that the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. May many be converted; may thy people be built up in their most holy faith. Be with such as are prevented, by necessary causes, from waiting on thee in thy house of prayer; O do thou bless and comfort them, in what afflictions or occupations soever they may be, and cause them to experience that thou art not confined to houses made with hands, but that thou art ever present with the contrite and believing. And do thou, who art the God of the sabbath, beget in all hearts a deepening veneration for thine own day, and in a way of mercy, bring those who desecrate this day to honor it and thee, and to find safety in Him whose resurrection this day shows forth. And now, O Lord, do thou accept of, and answer, these our prayers, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS LVI. LVII.

LORD God of our fathers, we would now close this holy, peaceful, and blessed day, which thou in thy great wisdom and mercy hast bestowed upon us, in thanksgiving to thee for the sabbath rest, and the sabbath instructions we have enjoyed; praying thee, that through faith in Christ, who as on this day rose from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep, we may attain to that better rest which remaineth for the people of God, when we shall walk before thee in the light of the living. We thank thee, gracious Father, for the gift

of the holy scriptures, inspired of thee, which are able to make us wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus; and we desire to feel how great is our responsibility, living as we do under the clear shining of a light so glorious. In God we will praise his word; in the Lord we will praise his word. Do thou enable us to discharge all the vows, and to fulfil all the resolutions to be thine in heart and life, which we have this day been led to form under the preaching of the word. Our hearts are fixed, O Lord; our hearts are fixed; we will sing and give praise. O grant that the impressions of this day may remain with us through the week, so that men may take notice of us that we have been with Jesus. We are exposed to manifold temptations; the love of many waxeth cold; may the Holy Spirit, the sanctifier, without whom we can do nothing, inhabit within us, as in a living temple, and make us thy separated, covenanted, and peculiar heritage. We entreat thee, living and true God, in behalf of thy servants who have this day been laboring in the word and doctrine; that many conversions occurring under their ministry may gladden their hearts; that a banner may be given to them to display because of the truth; and that they may see the walls of Jericho fall before the sound of the gospel trumpet. Do thou go forth with all who devote themselves to the missionary work in foreign lands; approve the great cause of missions to be thine own cause, Lord God Jehovah; disperse to the four winds of heaven all heathen, Mohammedan, and popish delusions; may the clear light of the Star of Bethlehem break through every opposing cloud, till the day come, thou hastening its coming, when as there is one God, Saviour, and Sanctifier in heaven, there shall be one faith, one love, one fold on earth. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Take unto thee, beloved Lord, thy mighty power, and reign. Do thou be near, gracious Father, this night, as we sleep, giving us quiet and healthful rest, and if such be thy will, bringing us to the light of another day. Be ever with us, and with all whom we love, whether in health or sickness, whether in prosperity or adversity. Guide us while we live; support us when we are dying; and thereafter receive us to everlasting glory, through the atoning blood of the covenant. And all we ask is for Christ's sake alone. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL II.

O God, thou art he who setteth the solitary in families, and thou hast promised to be the God of all the families of Israel. We praise thee for the endearing ties by which we are united. May they constrain us to pray and labor with a view to one another's true welfare, temporal and eternal. We thank thee for the blessing of godly parents and relatives, and for the unspeakable advantages of early instruction in the fear of the Lord. Alas, O God, how disproportioned has our improvement been to the number of our opportunities!

How far short have we come of thy glory! Give us, we beseech thee, a spirit of repentance for our past sins and imperfections. Cleanse us in that fountain thou hast opened to the house of David. And grant unto us wisdom and grace to walk in the way in which thy servants have taught us, to follow their path, considering the end of their conversation, and to set thee, the Lord, ever before us, that thou mayest direct our steps. We bless thee for our preservation through the night, and for the mercies of this morning. We bless thee for the spiritual rest of the past sabbath, for the solemn services of thy sanctuary, and the opportunities we enjoyed of entering into thy courts, and paying our vows unto the Most High. May a sanctifying influence remain upon our hearts from the sacred exercises in which we were then engaged. May thy Spirit seal every good impression upon our hearts. May he lead us into all truth; and, amid the turmoil and business of the world, to which we are about to return, may he call up those motives and considerations by which we should be actuated as the professed disciples of the Lord Jesus. Lord, let not the love of things seen and temporal exclude from our contemplation the invisible realities of the eternal world. Write with thine own finger the solemn truths of thy word upon our souls; and may we be living epistles of Christ, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, known and read of all men. We look to thee for needful support and guidance in the duties and trials of the day. Prepare us for prosperity, its dangers and seductions; prepare us for adversity, its disappointments and bereavements; prepare us for our great and last change, and fit us for spending an eternity with thee. Increase our faith, our spirituality, our heavenly-mindedness; and as every day is bringing us nearer to the hour of our departure, may every day find us living more with a view to our final account, and growing in a meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. And now, may the very God of peace sanctify us wholly; and we pray God that our whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved blameless unto the mind of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—JOHN I. 1-14.

O GOD, we thank thee that thou hast not left thyself without a witness. We bless thee that the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared thee. And with the liveliest gratitude and the deepest reverence would we adore that Word, who in the beginning was with God, and was God, and who, in the fulness of time, came into a world that knew him not, and was made flesh, and shed his precious blood for the offspring of his own creative power, that to as many as received him he might give the privilege to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Forbid, O Lord, that this light having come into the world, the darkness of our corrupt hearts should refuse to comprehend it.

As thou didst at first command the light to shine out of darkness, so do thou shine into our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. Without wisdom and grace from on high, we must lie lost in the maze of our own follies and errors; for we are of a frail and fallible nature, blinded by sin and prejudice, and bewildered by uncertainty. Enrich our souls, then, with those spiritual gifts of which we stand in need. And, under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, may we be led to acquiesce in the wisdom, and to perceive the suitableness, to our wants and circumstances, of that scheme of redemption whereby we are saved, solely of free and sovereign grace, through faith in the righteousness of our divine surety. Merciful God, look upon him whom thou hast pierced, and for his sake restore unto us the joy of thy salvation; take away all our sins, and receive us graciously. We rejoice that he came into the world to save sinners, for sinners we are, O Lord; our own hearts condemn us, much more must thou who art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. Nevertheless, reject us not, though there be no good in us; but as in Christ, thy Son, thou art ever well-pleased, so in him be thou also well pleased with us, and through his meritorious obedience and atoning death, accept of us as righteous in thy sight. While we pray for ourselves, we at the same time offer up our prayers in behalf of a world lying in wickedness. Visit the dark corners of the earth, and cause ignorance and horrid cruelty speedily to disappear before the enlightening and humanizing influence of the Sun of righteousness. Bless, in an eminent manner, our native land, and all orders and degrees of men amongst us. May all in authority rule in thy fear, and may those under them live quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty. We pray for the ministers of thy word throughout the land, that they may be men of power, by the Spirit of the Lord of hosts, and that by the eloquence of their lives, and the purity of their doctrines, they may draw many from their idols to the service of the living God, and may edify and build up thy people in their most holy faith. Abundantly bless our friends, and graciously forgive our enemies. Finally, O Lord, we pray for all who stand in need of comfort and consolation. Have compassion on the sick and the sorrowful. Mitigate the severities to which the poor are exposed; and do thou put it into the hearts of those to relieve them to whom thou hast given the ability. We commend ourselves to thy care through the night. Let no evil come nigh our dwelling; and if we should see the light of another morning, may we rise refreshed, to follow with new ardor in our Christian course. And all that we ask is for the sake and in the name of Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL III.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as our continual preserver and benefactor; Thou art never weary in doing us good. Thou givest us all things;

richly to enjoy. Thou preservest our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Blessed be God, who daily loadeth us with his benefits, even the God of our salvation. We praise thy name above all, for the high hopes to which thy people are called in thy word, and for the precious promises of an undefiled and unfading inheritance in heaven. Alas! what reason have we to bewail our insensibility to what is noble and exalted in our prospects, when we think of the slight influence they exercise over us, and that unmoved, by their native attractions, we require all thy reproofs and threatenings to compel us to attend to our own best interests. O Lord, may the powerful working of thy Holy Spirit overcome our aversion to things spiritual and heavenly. And may he lead us to attend to the things that belong to our eternal peace, lest they be forever hid from our eyes. May we anticipate the day of Christ's second coming, when he shall be revealed from heaven in flaming fire, and we shall each appear before his judgment-seat, to receive his award. Grant to us, O God, so to live and watch, that these hopes and expectations may be to us full of joy. May we have our loins habitually girt about with truth, and the lamp of faith burning in our hearts, that we may go forth to meet our Lord with joy, and not with grief, and may enter in with him, ere the door be shut. Be with us, O Lord, this day. Bless us in our out-goings and in-comings, and keep us under the shadow of thy wings. Deliver us from all fears and dangers of a temporal nature, from anguish of mind and pain of body, from being disturbed with worldly cares and griefs, compassed about with wants, and beset with the perils either of poverty or of riches. O thou who providest the ravens their food, and arrayest in beauty the lilies of the fields, do thou supply all our returning wants; and give us that composure of mind amid all the dispensations of thy providence which flows from a sense of our dependence on a bountiful and merciful Father, who afflicteth not willingly, nor grieveth the children of men. Above all things, may thy good Spirit keep our souls from the evil that is in the world. May he enable us to resist the wiles and temptations of the devil. And may the grace of God which hath appeared to all men, bringing salvation, effectually teach us to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ. And now unto God the Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.—JOHN I. 15-51.

O THOU everlasting Father and prince of peace, we bless thee that thou didst send thy messenger before thee, to prepare thy way, and to bear witness of thee, that all men might believe in thee for the remission of sins. Grant unto us hearts gratefully to receive his testimony, and to believe the record, that God hath given to us eternal

life, and this life is in his Son. And believing this record, may we be enabled to imitate in thy service the zeal, and ardor, and sincerity of thy forerunner. May we not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Being made partakers of his spiritual baptism, may we rise with him unto newness of life; and knowing him experimentally in the beauty of his person, the perfection of his righteousness, the fulness and all-sufficiency of his grace, may we rejoice to acknowledge our obligations to thee, and to speak of the glories and excellencies of Him, of whom the Father declared, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And may our love and admiration of him appear especially in our earnest desires that those near and dear to us may be brought to taste and see that thou art gracious. O may we all be members of that holy and heavenly family of which God is the Father, Christ the elder brother, and whose spiritual supplies the Holy Ghost graciously furnishes according to the necessities of the several members. We desire, heavenly Father, to bewail before thee the sins and short-comings of the past day. Wash us, we unfeignedly beseech thee, in the blood of Jesus Christ, which cleanseth from all sin, and grant us more and more to become one spirit with him, as he became one flesh with us. Write a law of gratitude upon our hearts for the undeserved mercies, temporal and spiritual, we daily enjoy at thy hand; and may our gratitude appear in an increased devotedness to thy service, and a growing conformity to thine image. We pray for others as well as for ourselves. Bless the whole family of mankind, and give success to the means employed for extending to others the religious privileges we ourselves enjoy. May the Sun of righteousness enlighten every land, and the Day-star from on high arise upon those who are living in the shadow of death. We implore thy special blessing on our native country, and that thou wouldest long preserve to her the inestimable benefits of outward peace and inward security. Let thy corn and wine abound, that there may be food in our land for man and beast. Bless all constituted authorities throughout the land. May they legislate and rule in thy fear, and with a single eye to the peace, the happiness, the moral and religious well-being of the whole people. Our friends and relatives, wherever they are, do thou abundantly bless, and keep them from the evil that is in the world, especially from the evil of offending thee. O Lord, we pray for all in every quarter who stand in need of comfort and consolation. Bow down thine ear unto their cry, and sanctify the afflictions with which they are visited to their spiritual improvement and growth in grace. We desire to commit our bodies and souls to thy keeping through the night. Watch over our slumbers, and should we be raised to the light of a new day, may we spend it and all our days in thy fear. And now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL IV.

THOU art great, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; thou art to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before thee; strength and beauty are in thy sanctuary. Thy glory thou wilt not give to another, neither thy praise to graven images. O Lord, all flesh have corrupted their way before thee. They have all been guilty of departing from the living God. They have not liked to retain God in their knowledge. They have worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Alas! alas! we still feel that the human heart is prone to follow after idols. It still goeth after its covetousness, too readily yielding up to some object of earthly attachment, that place in its affections which thou alone art entitled to occupy. We lament to think how much we are disposed to walk in the sight of our own eyes, and after the imagination of our own hearts, to trust in the wisdom of our own devices, and to go forth in the confidence of our own strength. O teach us that our own wisdom is but folly, and that our own strength is but weakness. Let us no longer worship that which is not God, nor place our trust in an arm of flesh. Let us no longer have any confidence in any of our own purposes or performances, in any of our own services or sufferings, but only in Him who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O Lord, notwithstanding our manifold sins and provocations. We would think, both with comfort and with holy awe, of thy mercy and judgment which were mingled in thy dealings with thy offending people of old. Thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou seekest vengeance of their inventions. When thou seest fit to correct us for our iniquities, O do thou remember mercy; and even when we are smarting under the rod of thy chastisements, enable us to say, 'It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good.' As a proof that thou hast not forgotten to be gracious, O help us even in the deepest of our afflictions, to feel a holy and permanent concern for the glory of thy name, the purity of thy worship, and the triumph of thy gospel. Let each of us be ready to say, Though he slay me yet will I trust in him. Even under the hiding of thy countenance let us be convinced that thou wilt never forsake us utterly. Most merciful God! we have laid us down and slept; we have awaked, for the Lord sustained us. Keep us in thy fear during the whole course of the day, to which thou hast brought us. Amid the various duties and endearments of life, may we never forget that thou God seest us, that thy favor is life, and thy loving-kindness better than life. Show us thy salvation. May we love each other out of a pure heart, fervently, but so that God in Christ Jesus, shall at all times, in the supreme object of our love. Guide us by thy counsel, and afterwards receive us into glory, through Jesus Christ our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—JOHN II.

ALMIGHTY and most blessed God, we adore and worship thee as the king eternal, immortal, and invisible. No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, who is in the Father, he hath declared him. Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh. We thank thee that the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. We rejoice to know, that he is the one Mediator between God and man, and it is through him alone, that we now venture to approach thy footstool. We bless thee, O Lord, that while it pleased thee that in him all the fulness of the Godhead should dwell, and that all men should honor the Son even as also they honor the Father, he graciously condescended, after becoming a partaker of our nature, to partake of the innocent enjoyments of human life, and to adorn and hallow, by his presence, the meetings of those who rejoiced with trembling, and who were ready to receive him as the sent of God. We bless thee that although he came to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows, he graciously shared in the endearments and in the joys of those who, by seeking his fellowship, showed that, even in their gladness, the fear of God was before their eyes. We bless thee, that great as was his zeal for the manifestation of the glory of God, great also was his zeal in doing good to the souls and bodies of men, seeking to leave a blessing behind him in every family into which he entered. We give thee thanks, O Lord, for the gracious invitations which he has addressed to us in the gospel. O that we may listen to his voice, Come eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Having professedly believed on him for his works' sake—having believed the testimony which thou hast given us of thy Son—having been persuaded and captivated by the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; may we be ever careful to adorn the doctrines of God our Saviour; and wherever we are, in whatever society we appear, whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to the glory of God. And now most merciful Father, if, in the course of the past day, we have at any time forgotten the invisible presence in which we were placed; if in the intercourse of business, the relaxations of society, or the endearments of the family circle, we have done anything which our divine Master would not have countenanced, and cannot approve; do thou, for his sake, graciously forgive us. Thou knowest what is in each of us; O do thou cleanse us from all filthiness of the flesh, and of the Spirit. May our bodies and souls be as living temples of the Holy Ghost; and may we be prepared at last for being admitted unto the society and the felicities of the upper sanctuary, amid the spirits of just men made perfect. We would now, O Lord, both lay

us down in peace, and sleep : for thou, Lord, only makest us dwell in safety. And all we ask, is through Jesus Christ, the Son of thy love. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL IX.

EVER-BLESSED and most glorious God, how unsearchable are thy judgments, and thy ways past finding out! Thou doest according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth ; and none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, What doest thou? Thou art the Most High, who rulest in the kingdom of men, and givest it to whomsoever thou wilt. Thou art God, and there is none else. Thou declarest the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. Thou preservest and governest all thy creatures and all their actions. Thou leavest them, while answerable to thee, to follow the dictates of their own feelings and inclinations, and yet overrulest these for the accomplishment of thine own purposes. Thou guidest them by a hand unseen, and leadest them by a way which they have not known. The heart of man deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps. The lot is cast into the lap ; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord. O Lord, we have been guilty of departing from thee, the living God. All of us, like sheep, have gone astray. When we are the farthest from thee, we are the least disposed to understand our errors or seek after God. O turn away our hearts and our eyes from beholding vanity ; and quicken thou us in thy way. Instead of being eagerly engaged in pursuing some of the various forms of worldly honor, advantage, or enjoyment, do thou teach us to seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things, so far as needful, shall be added unto us. We thank thee, O Lord, that thou sentest thy Son into the world, to seek and to save that which was lost ; that all who believe in his name have been chosen in him before the foundation of the world ; and that he 'has solemnly declared, 'Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.' Enable us, we beseech thee, cordially to accept of his gracious invitations ; to embrace him as all our salvation and all our desire ; to submit ourselves to his authority as our only spiritual sovereign ; to place ourselves and all our affairs entirely at his disposal ; to render him the undivided homage of our affections and our lives ; and to rejoice in the blessed prospect of being made partakers with him in the kingdom which he has purchased and prepared for all them that love him. Heavenly Father, we are unworthy of the very least of thy favors. We are unworthy either of the bounties of thy providence, or of the privileges and ordinances of thy gospel. We are unworthy either to hear or to declare 'the word of reconciliation ;' yet may we not on this, or on any other ground, presume to decline any duty to which thou art pleased to call us. In every department of thy service,

grant us grace to be found faithful, and honor us, if it seem good in thy sight, with an abundant measure of success. Father of mercies, do thou this morning accept of and bless the sacrifice of our adoration and gratitude for all thy goodness both to our bodies and to our souls. We would set out on the journey and duties of the present day, beseeching thee, with thine eye set upon us, to give us direction. Show us, in all things, what thou wouldest have us to do or to avoid; and be thou ever at our right hand, that we may not be moved. Pardon the sins of these our services, and accept of and answer us, for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son; and the glory be thine, now and for evermore. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—JOHN III.

O LORD, thou art the Father of the spirits of all flesh. Thou madest man at first in thine own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, and crownedst him with glory and honor. But we have sinned, O God, and art by nature the children of wrath even as others. Thou, O Lord, art glorious in holiness; evil cannot dwell with thee; and into thy presence nothing that defileth can enter. We desire to feel the momentousness of the declaration addressed to us by Him who alone can show us the Father, and who is the one Mediator between God and man, and that we must be born again; that except we be born of the Spirit, we cannot enter into the kingdom of God. We thank thee for the blessed assurance which he also has given us, that thou wilt give the Holy Spirit to them that ask thee. Breathe on us, O Lord, and say to us, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. May the Spirit convince us, if not already convinced, of our sin and misery; may he enlighten our minds in the knowledge of Christ; may he renew our wills; and thus may he persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, as he is freely offered to us in the gospel. We adore and magnify thy name, most gracious God, for that infinite, unchangeable, and everlasting love which prompted thee to send thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son into the world, in the likeness of sinful flesh, to become the propitiation for our sins, and by his obedience unto death, by his perfect, his meritorious, his infinite righteousness, to justify the ungodly, even as many as believe in his name. When we think of thine utter abhorrence of sin and of the awful extent in which it has polluted our whole souls, and when we think, at the same time, of thine ineffable delight in Him who was the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person, how shall we speak of that love wherewith thou hast loved us, when thou sparedst not thine own Son, but deliveredst him up for us all! This is, indeed, a love which passeth knowledge. O that we may love Him who first loved us. O that we may show our love by the keeping of his commandments. O that we may thus adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, by a life and

conversation such as becometh the gospel, and thus have the happiness of finding that thy Spirit, by the increase of his graces in our souls, is testifying with our spirits, that we are born again, and that our works are wrought in God. O Lord, we feel that we need to be daily renewed unto repentance. Pardon, we beseech thee, the sins of the past day. This night be at peace with our souls; give us refreshing sleep; and, when the night of death overtakes us, may we have an entrance ministered to us abundantly into thine everlasting kingdom—into the rest which remaineth for the people of God. And all that we ask, is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL X.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we are thy creatures, and thou ever rulest over us by thy power. Enable us to feel with solemnity of spirit, and in the exercise of faith, that it is with thee in all things we have indeed to do. What have we that is not thine; and what are all our possessions without thy blessing and favor. However small our portion of the good things of this life, with thy blessing we shall be happy, and without it we can only have indignation and wrath as our portion, both now and forever. We confess before thee, that our hearts are by nature worldly, sinful, and altogether polluted, that our affections are estranged from thee, our understandings darkened, and our imaginations vain and evil, and that continually. We are children of disobedience, and therefore heirs of wrath. Thou, O God, hast been pleased to reveal thy grace, thine abounding grace, by Jesus Christ thy Son, who is one with thee, the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person. By him thou hast perfected, and thou hast brought nigh unto us, a way of deliverance from the wrath to come; and a way of access to every blessing of thy favor, both in time and eternity. But we confess before thee, that we have not given due heed to the salvation which his glorious gospel proclaims, and freely offers. In all these things, we have grievously sinned; we have done despite to thy beloved Son, and to thy Holy Spirit: and we have peculiarly deserved the wrath of God. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners. We do beseech thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, and for his sake, to enlighten our understanding, that we may behold of thy divine glory; and that we may learn the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the sin which is in us, each one; and that we may truly repent and turn to thee, with grief and hatred of our sin, and with full purpose and endeavor after new obedience. For this end, O be thou pleased to renew our will, and persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, as he is freely offered to us in the gospel. Send thy Spirit, thy blessed, gracious, almighty Spirit, who is one with the Father, and with the Son, that he may work in us effectually; that he may lead us to Christ, that he may unite us to Christ by a living faith, and that being so

united to him who is the head, we may be members indeed of his body, the church, and in him be new creatures; and that a new heart may be created in us, and a right spirit implanted in us. Save us, O Lord, from trusting to any righteousness or deeds of our own, for salvation. Save us from being satisfied with being outwardly numbered with thy people. Save us, O Lord, from the power of the world, and from all its vanities. Save us from deceiving ourselves, thinking that we are converted, if thou seest us to be still unconverted. Bless to each one of us thy holy word: may we be instructed savingly by it. Bless to our souls the whole means of grace, private and public. Pour forth thy Spirit upon us, and upon all who are outwardly privileged as we are, that we and they may be sanctified by the truth: thy word is truth. Thou hast promised thy blessing upon the provision of Zion; O fulfil thy promise through Jesus Christ, and by his Spirit, that thy name may be glorified, and thy church increased everywhere on earth, and perishing sinners saved. Bless, O God, all thy people on earth, and all thy servants in the gospel of thy Son. May thy glorious gospel go forth unto the utmost ends of the earth; and hasten the time when they shall remember, and turn to thee. We thank thee, as the God of our mercies, for the rest of the past night, and for the blessings and comforts of a new day. We would dedicate ourselves, and all that is ours, every day to thee. Preserve us this day from all evil and danger, and from all the ways of temptation. May we commune with thee in our hearts, amidst all the labors of our hands. Give thy blessing to our lot and our portion; and encompass us with thy favor as with a shield. Bless all our friends, forgive our enemies, and give us forgiving hearts; and may the law of kindness to all men be in our spirit continually. Prepare us for all thy holy will, conducting us by thy counsel. And graciously hear and answer these our united supplications, which we offer in the name and through the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, be all praise and glory forever Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—JOHN IV. 1-30.

O LORD, we come before thee in the name of Jesus Christ thy Son, and unto thee would we seek by him who is the way, and the truth, and the life. We are altogether unworthy and undeserving of thy mercy or favor; but thou, in thine everlasting grace, hast ordained salvation for such guilty sinners as we are. Thou hast sent thy beloved Son into the world in our likeness; and we would bless thy name, as God manifested by him, that he hath given us sure testimony of thy loving-kindnesses, and of thy tender mercies. We would render thanksgiving to thee that we have been favored with the revelation of the glorious gospel. O Lord, we confess our abuse of this great and precious blessing, in our not being led by it to seek

thy salvation as the one thing needful. Suffer us not, we humbly entreat thee, to be satisfied with a form of godliness. Thou art declaring to us by thy Son that those who worship thee, must worship thee in spirit and in truth. Awaken thou our souls to see our need of being made truly such worshippers of thee, as God and our God. Thy Spirit is good, lead thou us into the land of uprightness: into this spiritual saving knowledge of thyself, which would effectually incline our hearts to worship, to love, and to serve thee continually. Thou art thoroughly acquainted with our hearts each one. And if thou knowest any one of us now before thee to be yet ignorant of thyself, and worshipping thee only in the oldness of the letter, O may thy blessed Spirit quicken us, giving us life. And as we read the kindness of Christ, his compassion to sinners, so we know, that as he was and is, such is the Spirit also, as one with him in the glorious Godhead; and in applying the work of salvation to sinners, in coming to them, and dwelling with them, converting and sanctifying the soul. May he come to us, and in our hearts may he dwell, that we may truly know the truth of ail that Jesus Christ declares to us by his living word of truth; and knowing and feeling the truth in its power, may we flee to himself, who is alone our sure refuge, our righteousness, and our strength. May we be quickened together with him; and may we be kept learning of him, and growing in conformity to his blessed and holy image. And by thy word may each of us be daily enabled to lay aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil-speaking; and may we, as new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of his holy word, that we may grow thereby. Forgive our sins, which we have this day committed against thee, whether in heart, in speech, or in conduct. And, O grant, that by thy grace ruling in us, we may be daily more and more dying unto sin and living unto righteousness. Enable us to show forth the praises of him who calleth us; and every day of our lives to be looking forward to the day of his coming, when we must render an account at his judgment-seat of all our deeds. Give us this night, in him, thy blessing and favor. Let no evil come nigh our dwelling. May we be safe in thy keeping; and if brought to another day, may we rise again in thy fear; and may our hearts seek the Lord, and live. We commend to thee, in Jesus Christ, all for whom we ought to pray. Command thou thy blessings in and through him upon them. O may thy kingdom come; and may our kindred, and friends, and neighbors, be blest in its coming to them truly in power. And may it be extended throughout the whole world, until all the families of mankind shall worship thee in spirit and in truth. May all who love thee and thy salvation, prosper. May our lot and our inheritance, and all the dealings of thy providence towards us, be blessed of thee to us, unitedly, and to each one of us. Prepare us for all thy holy will, and keep us by thy power, through faith unto salvation. And all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, be all power, and praise, and glory. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL XV.

O LORD, we confess and lament in thy presence that our hearts by nature are altogether unfaithful to thee and to thy glory's cause, in our own souls, and in the world, and that we are continually transgressing against thee. We are by nature lovers of sin, and not of righteousness and holiness. We beseech thee, O Lord, to have mercy upon us, and to visit our souls with thy salvation, sending to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Holy Spirit, to convince us of the real evil, the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that we may truly repent, and turn from sin to thee, with all our hearts. And we stand in need of receiving from thee that new heart which thou art promising to give; for without thee, and without thine effectual working in us to that end, we can do nothing aright; we cannot glorify thee as God and our God. They who are in the flesh cannot please God. We pray that thou wouldst be pleased to remember us in the love thou bearest to thine own, the unspeakable love thou hast manifested by Jesus Christ, thy Son, to perishing, guilty, unworthy sinners. Such sinners are we; and, O Lord, for his sake on whom thou didst lay the chastisement of iniquity, we pray that thou wouldst forgive our sins that are past, working in us faith in his glorious name, and enabling us, through faith, to receive the atonement which he made as our own, for, blessed be thy name, to us it is offered. We confess before thee our inability to receive it. But we come to thee, in his name in whom thou art well pleased, and we would say, We desire to believe, Lord, help thou our unbelief, and enable us to be conquerors over it. O that we were, by the faith of thy Spirit, united to thy Son, that having in him a perfect righteousness imputed to us, we might be accepted in thy sight, and that we might be partakers also of his life. Enable us, at this time, to receive with meekness the engrafted word. May we fear lest there be in any one of us the evil heart of unbelief which departs from the living God; and if thou seest any one of us still to have it, while we may be deceiving ourselves, may we fear when we read of those who had such a promising outward appearance, and yet who were not separated from their sins, because not received in the spirit of their mind. We thank thee for the mercies of the night past, and of this day. Command thy blessings this day upon us, as individuals and as a family. May we be kept and preserved from evil, from danger, from temptations, and from sin. May we walk in thy fear; and may we know the path of duty, in the light of the knowledge of thy glory shining in our hearts, according to thy word; and may no iniquity obtain dominion over us. Another of our weeks on earth draws to an end. Our times are wholly in thy hands. May we be found redeeming the time; and, O Lord, do thou prepare us for thine approaching sabbath. May we this day walk in looking forward to it, and may we receive from thee the preparation of the heart. Prepare thy blessed ordinances of the

sabbath for us, and us for them. Prepare thy servants to preach and teach the everlasting gospel; and do thou, by thy Spirit, bless it in their hands to the conversion of sinners, and to the edifying of thy people. Guide us by thy counsel. Uphold thou our goings, that we may glorify thy name. Take away our sins, and graciously hear and answer our prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—JOHN IV. 31-54.

O LORD, what are we, thy sinful, rebellious creatures, that thou shouldst look upon us, or condescend to visit us in such loving-kindness and tender mercy as thou art manifesting in thy glorious gospel, by Jesus Christ. We have broken thy holy law, and our whole nature, and our words and deeds form one continued scene of sin and transgression against thee. And yet thou art making manifest, by Jesus Christ, thy Son, that thou hast no pleasure in our death, but art wishing that we should turn unto thee and live. None ever had more need of being turned unto thee than we have. Turn thou us, and we shall be turned. Send forth thy light with thy truth to our souls, with power and efficacy from on high. O that we felt in our own souls the need we have of Christ, and of his gracious kindness, compassion, and love, and of his almighty power to save. O may we hasten to come unto him while he is yet, by his word, and by all its appointed means, even teaching in the midst of us, and declaring to us the glad tidings of great joy. May the time past be to us more than sufficient to have done the will of the flesh, and to be subject to sin and vanity, bringing down upon ourselves the sure wrath of God; and may we now feel and know that sin is our ruin, and that grace alone can save us. We would bless thy name, O God, that where sin abounded, that grace of thine did yet more abound, and that the glorious Mediator of the new covenant is an almighty Redeemer. The blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin. O do thou lead us, by thy Holy Spirit, to that fountain opened. And if thy saving work of grace be already begun in any of us now before thee, O let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, and in him, and by thy Holy Spirit, and through thine own appointed means of grace, lead us onward, strengthen us, establish us, settle us in the faith of Christ, and in the purifying hope of his coming, and of his eternal glory. Follow with thy Spirit's teaching to our hearts, the portion of thy word we have now read and heard. May it profit us savingly. We thank thee for the mercies granted us during the day past. May our sins of this day be forgiven. May we now have access to the grace in which thy people stand; and may thy blessing be upon and around us. Keep us in safety during this night. And if it be thy holy will that we see the light of another day, as that day, O Lord, is thine own, may we be prepared to serve thee. O pour forth thy Holy Spirit upon us, that we may

be enabled, on thy holy sabbath, to keep it holy as unto God. Open thou our ear to hear and our heart to understand. And may thy holy word be prepared for us, and sent to our souls by the power of the Holy Ghost. If permitted to worship thee in thy house of prayer, with our brethren, O Lord, grant us there thy special grace, that we may grow by the sincere milk of thy word. Give thy Spirit to thy servants who preach the everlasting gospel. May they preach it faithfully and fully; and may all who hear receive the engrafted word with meekness. Bless all our relatives, our benefactors; and forgive our enemies. Fit us for all thy holy will; and may thy blessings in Christ be upon us, and upon our lot. O God, hasten the time when thy holy sabbaths shall be hallowed all over the world. We commit ourselves to thee. Forgive our sins, hear our prayers, and graciously accept us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Nineteenth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS LVIII. LIX.

ALMIGHTY Father, Lord of heaven and earth, this is the day which thou hast made. In it we shall rejoice and be glad. On this day a greater work than creation was finished, and declared to be very good. On the morning of this day thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, rose from the grave, declaring, not by a voice from heaven, as at his baptism, but by his glorious resurrection, that this was thy beloved Son, in whom thou art well pleased. For the sake of all that thy beloved Son suffered on earth, we beseech thee to pardon and pass by our many and great offences. Bestow on us, for the sake of thy holy One, the blessedness of that man whose sins are covered, and whose iniquities are blotted out. May Christ this day be made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and everlasting redemption. Give us, good Lord, a sweet sense of thy love and tender mercy in Christ. Draw our hearts to thyself by the cords of love, that out of the fulness of our gratitude we may cry out, What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits? We would this day renew our engagements to be Christ's, being constrained, by the mercies of God, to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our reasonable service. Fill us with a hatred of all sin and a holy jealousy over ourselves, and let thy word and Spirit this day strengthen our souls, that we may go on in our way rejoicing. On this day we would especially remember, at a throne of grace, the church which thou hast planted on earth. Be in the midst of all her worshipping assemblies, in all parts of the world, and let thy word be quick and powerful, discern

ing the thoughts and intents of every heart. Especially would we remember the Church with which we are connected, and which thou hast watched over since the days of the blessed Reformation, making it a blessing to us and our fathers. Perpetuate these blessings, good Lord, to the latest generations. Revive thy work of reformation in the midst of the days. Free her from every error in doctrine and in discipline, and let her clothing be of wrought gold, the righteousness of saints. That portion of the vineyard with which, in thy providence, we are connected, we commend unto the blessing of the great Head of the Church. Let great grace be upon thy servant, our pastor. Stand by him in his duties this day, that he may feed the flock of Christ committed to his charge, as a faithful shepherd and bishop of souls. Bless the eldership of the church, and may they be patterns unto the church, and uphold the hands of the pastor in every good work. Bless and direct all those engaged in the instruction of the young on this day. May the teachers of our youth be all taught of thee. Let them see of the fruit of their labor for the godly upbringing of the young, that the next generation may be wiser and better than the present. We thank thee for the mercies of this morning, and as thou hast refreshed our bodies by the rest of the night, may our souls be this day refreshed by thy word and Spirit, that our sabbaths on earth may be a sweet foretaste of that everlasting sabbath which remains for thy people. And we would conclude our morning sacrifice in those words in which our Lord taught us to pray, saying, Our Father, &c.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS LX. LXI.

ADORABLE Jehovah, Lord of heaven and earth, who didst so love this guilty world, as to give thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, to suffer in our room and stead, we praise and magnify thy name for this thy best gift to our world. Thou didst create this world, and the fulness thereof by a word, but thou didst redeem it by the tears, and agonies, and death of thy holy One, bringing a glory to thyself greater than the glory of creation, and to us a peace and good hope through Christ, better than if we had gained the whole world. We give thee thanks for what we have read and heard this day of Immanuel and Immanuel's land. Let not the cares and lusts of the world; let not its vanities and pleasures choke the good seed sown in our own hearts, and render it unfruitful; but send from above the dews of thy Spirit, to cause it to grow, and bear in our hearts the fruit of holy desires and affections. May the oil with which this day our vessels have been replenished, keep our lamps burning brightly throughout this week. Give us divine strength to carry our holy principles into holy practice, and our sabbath thoughts into daily life, that by works our faith may be perfected, becoming stronger and stronger by reason of use, making us

mighty to contend with the temptations, and patient under the trials, of life. Pardon, good Lord, the sins of thy holy day, of coldness and formality in our devotions, of careless reading and hearing of thy word, and of frivolous thoughts and conversation unbecoming thy day. Mark not the iniquity of our holy things, for in all we sin and come short of thy glory, but remember in our behalf the Lord our righteousness, him who had clean hands and a pure heart, and never lifted up his soul to vanity nor spoke deceitfully. We implore thy protection to us, and all that are near and dear to us, through the night watches. Let our sleep refresh our bodies and fit us for the duties of a new day, and spare us to enjoy the light of another morning, and to thy name, and to thy Son's name, with the Holy Spirit, be everlasting praise, glory, and honor, forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL XVI.

HEAVENLY Father, enable us to choose that good part which shall never be taken from us, not judging after the sight of the eyes, nor after the hearing of the ears, but considering that which will endure, and be profitable to our imperishable souls; for what shall a man profit though he gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Forgive us, gracious Father, for having, in times past, gone too much along with the current of the world, as if our hopes and our inheritance were in this life only. Keep us from ever preferring the pleasures of sin, which are but for a season, to the riches of Christ, which endure forever. Incline us rather to suffer than to sin against thee, and to bear the reproach of Christ rather than to enjoy, without him, the smiles of the world. O grant that we may be amongst those of whom it may be said, as of David, The Lord is with them. Many there be who say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us, and then shall we be happier than those whose corn and wine doth most abound. If thou art with us, whether in poverty or in wealth, in health or in sickness, it will be well with us, and even the afflictions of life will yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness. We give thee thanks for thy goodness to us through the silent watches of the night, and for the soundness of mind, as well as health of body we now enjoy. We laid ourselves down, and slept, and awaked, for thou didst sustain us. Vouchsafe thy presence with us throughout the day. Uphold our steps in thy paths, and let not temptations prevail against us, and to thee shall be the glory of all our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

MONDAY EVENING.—JOHN v. 1-24.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we adore thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. Thy tender mercy is above all thy works, for when there was no eye to pity us, and no hand to help, thine eye pitied and thy right arm wrought our salvation. Thou didst so love the world as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but might have everlasting life. We believe in thy Son, Jesus Christ. We know of no name given under heaven by which there is salvation, but the name of Jesus. In that name alone we come this night into thy holy presence. Remember not, heavenly Father, what manner of creatures we are, but remember what Jesus, our great advocate and intercessor, is. Behold Christ, our shield. Look on the face of thine Anointed. By his humiliation on earth in our nature; by his labors and travail in behalf of the sons of men; by all his sufferings, known and unknown, we entreat forgiveness of our many and great iniquities. If thou, Lord, wert to mark our transgressions and reckon them up in order before thee, yea, if thou wert to call us to account for the sins even of any one day of our lives, which of us would be justified in thy sight? Thy law only searches our hearts and discovers our sins, but that justification which cometh not to any son of Adam by the deeds of the law, cometh to all that believe through the atoning sacrifice and perfect righteousness of Immanuel. We put our trust under the shadow of his wings, and desire to be clothed on by his righteousness. We would go up through this wilderness, leaning on him as the beloved of our souls. Let thy Spirit take of the things of Christ and show them unto our souls, that our souls may go on from strength to strength, until we arrive in Zion at last. Enable us more and more to honor thy Son in our lives and conversation, maintaining a walk becoming the gospel. Carry on, by thy Spirit, the good work thou hast begun in any of our hearts, that we may grow up to the stature of perfect men in Christ Jesus, and that we may have increasing evidences in ourselves that we are thine by saving and sanctifying faith. Evermore defend us against the various temptations of life, and let thy grace be sufficient for us amidst all the vicissitudes of our changing lot. We thank thee for the goodness and mercy that have guarded our steps this day. Let thy good providence watch over us, and all that are near and dear to our hearts, through the silence of the night; and after the refreshing sleep of the night, revive us to the light and enjoyment of another day. And unto thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glory, honor, and praise, world without end. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL XVII.

ALMIGHTY God, we would unite our hearts to offer the tribute of our gratitude, because thou hast preserved us during the silent watches of the past night, and hast allowed us to see the light of a new day. Thy mercies are new to us every day. Therefore we will bless thy holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits; bless the Lord, O our souls, and remember his good and perfect gifts. We thank thee that thou hast made the Sun of righteousness to arise upon our benighted world, and remove the gross darkness which covereth the people. Thou hast given thy Son to be a light of the Gentiles. He is the light of the world; he that followeth him shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. Send forth, O Lord, thy light and truth into our hearts, that we may not walk in the ignorance and carnality of our fallen nature. Convince us of our sins, in their number, in their variety, in their aggravations, and in their fearful deserts. Convince us of our misery if we still lie under the condemnation of thy broken and despised law, exposed to the hot wrath and the sore displeasure of the living God; for who knoweth the power of his anger? Awaken us, if any now before thee are sunk in spiritual slumber, and let the arrows of conviction pierce the hearts which are at enmity with God, and are not subject to his law. Give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of thy Son Jesus Christ that we may flee to him as the city of refuge, where we shall be forever secured from the righteous claims of thy avenging justice; that we may enter his kingdom as an ark of safety, where we shall never be swallowed up by the floods and tempests of thy devouring wrath. Lord, save us; Lord, help us; Lord, have mercy upon us. Make our hearts what thou wouldst have them to be. Renew our wills, and assume the government of our dispositions, appetites, and affections. For thy Son's sake pardon our transgressions, and continue to us the guidance of thy free Spirit. We desire to go forth to the performance of our Christian duties this day in the spirit of faith, and with earnest endeavors after new obedience to thy holy will in all things. Lord, hear, and answer us, since all that we now ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, thy Son, and our Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—JOHN v. 25-47.

ALMIGHTY God, we again bow ourselves down at the footstool of thy throne, whence thou condescendest to regard the words of our petitions, our thanksgivings, and our confessions. The frailties and short-comings which attend our very best efforts of obedience to thy

will follow us in our prayers. Our confidence, therefore, in this, and every other approach which we make to a throne of grace, is not in ourselves, but is founded on the merits and finished work of Jesus Christ. His name is our confidence, that what we now ask we shall receive, and that what we seek, we shall find, and that when we knock, it shall be opened to us. At the close of another day, we would now entreat thy free forgiveness of the sins which we have committed, and entreat also thy gracious acceptance of our attempts to act in accordance with thy holy commandments. We gladly look upon Christ as the altar which alone sanctifies whatever either of will or of deed thy Spirit worketh in us of his good pleasure. For thy Son's sake, accept our persons, our works, and our supplications. Christ having redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, we desire henceforth to adopt thy law as the sole rule of our life and conduct. Lord, acquaint us with the exceeding breadth of thy commandments. By them is thy servant warned, and in keeping of them there is great reward. And let all now before thee know the blessedness of the man whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Let all of us know the blessedness of the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. Give us thy Spirit that we may be born again, that we may be God's workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works. Let Christ be begotten in our hearts the hope of glory. Give us that faith whereby we may constantly and implicitly trust in Christ, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins. Give us our daily bread, guide all our steps, make all the events which may befall us in the course of our earthly pilgrimage to contribute to our spiritual welfare, and to thy glory. We resign ourselves to thy protection and care, while the shades of night rest upon our habitation, and our eyelids are closed in slumber. Lord, we entreat for all with whom we are connected by the endearing ties of blood and friendship. Let them and us be united forever by the tie of a common interest in the covenant of grace. Bless our native land in all its interests, civil and spiritual. Give wisdom to our rulers, that they may rule in the fear of the Lord. Let thy word penetrate to the most distant parts of the earth, and overthrow the habitations of darkness and horrid cruelty. Uphold thy church wherever it is established in the earth. And now, Lord, hear, and accept our prayers, since all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL XVIII.

O LORD God, who art seated on a throne, high and lifted up, we again direct our supplications and thanksgivings to the place where thine honor dwelleth. We thank thee that thou art seated on a throne of mercy, whither we may come in the name of Christ, not

merely with confidence, but with great boldness. Thou art merciful and gracious to forgive us our iniquities, thou art just and faithful also to forgive us our sins. We adore, with reverence, and wonder, and gratitude, that unsearchable wisdom which has made the claims of justice consistent with the entreaties of mercy, and has harmonized thy hatred of sin with the free forgiveness of sinners. O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God; how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! We receive Christ as thy unspeakable gift. We rejoice in his appointment to be the Mediator between God and man. We acquiesce in all the arrangements of the covenant of grace. Our prayer is that thou wouldst enrich our poor, and naked, and empty souls with the fulness of the spiritual blessings which are laid up in Jesus Christ, our invisible Head. If there be aught good in us, it dwelleth not in us by nature, for in us, that is, in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing; it arises from the working of thy good Spirit, who in Christ Jesus is granted to all his people for their instruction, and sanctification, and rich comfort. But, heavenly Father, even when thy sanctifying grace has been conferred upon us, to enable and fit us for our daily obedience, we still feel our need of thy forgiving grace. Look upon us in the face of thine Anointed, and not as we are in ourselves. May thy Spirit sprinkle our polluted consciences with the peace-speaking blood of Christ, and clothe our persons, naked of all merit, with the unspeakable merits of Christ, who is the Lord our righteousness; and then, being justified by faith, we shall have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, we desire to please thee by our actions and thoughts during this day. And when, by thy watchful and merciful providence, we again unite our praise and prayers this evening, may we find that we have denied ourselves, that we have taken and carried Christ's cross, and have followed him. We would no longer live the rest of our time in the flesh, to the lusts of men, but to the will of God, which is our sanctification. Help us, Lord, henceforth to have, through Christ Jesus, our affections, and conversation, and treasure in heaven, where Christ our Saviour is, and where, after our death, we humbly hope ever to be with him. Take our country, our rulers, our friends, and our enemies, under thy special protection. Pour out thy promised Spirit upon thy visible church. May its bounds soon extend to the ends of the earth, and may thine ancient people recognize Jesus of Nazareth to be the true Messiah. Look in mercy upon the sick, the afflicted, and the dying. And now, Lord, accept our persons and prayers, since all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—JOHN VI. 1-40.

O LORD, we now adore thy mercy, because while the shades of night are descending upon us and our habitations, thou hast not left us to the darkness of our natural minds. We fully know thy will

for our salvation, that we should believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. May he then be made of God, unto each of us, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. We confess that we often act unworthily of our Christian privileges, and often act inconsistently with our high calling. Our faith fails us, our watchfulness against sin intermits, our affections become cold and languid, and our imaginations wander to forbidden scenes. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. Whither shall we go but unto thee, for thou hast the words of life eternal? Draw us, Lord, and we shall run after thee. Draw us with the cords of a man, and with bands of love. Make us a willing people in this day of thy power. Send forth thy light and truth into our hearts, and let us experience the enlightening and purifying, the sanctifying and comforting influences of thy word. Make our wayward wills conformable to thine, that we all may do thy will on earth, as it is done in heaven. We desire now, Lord, that thou wouldest forgive the sins which we have committed this day, and that thou wouldest not take thy Holy Spirit from us. We place our dependence upon the merits and intercession of Christ the righteous, who is our advocate with the Father, and who is the propitiation for our sins. Let the same spirit which was in him, be also in us. Engrave his precepts and commandments upon our hearts, until we become living epistles of the Lord Jesus, known and read of all men. We would now commit ourselves to thy protection during the coming night. Our friends we commend to thy guardianship. Let us and them be more closely united, by being all partakers of Christ's redemption. Look mercifully upon our country and its rulers. Let the church of God be established, and let it extend its bounds to the remotest regions of the earth. And now, heavenly Father, grant us exceeding abundantly, above all that we can ask or think, since all that we ask is for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL XIX.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we would approach the footstool of thy throne, with that reverence which becometh us as creatures, and that humility which becometh us as sinful creatures. We adore thee on account of thy great and glorious majesty. We bless thee on account of that goodness which thou makest continually to pass before us. Thine is the air we breathe, thine the food we eat, thine the raiment we wear, thine the earth we tread, thine are all the blessings of social intercourse, the comforts of domestic life, with everything which tends to sweeten the cup of human enjoyment. Thy people thou keepest as the apple of thine eye, preserving them amid all the snares of the wicked, and giving them deliverance. But while we bless thee for those things which perish

with the using, we bless thee above all for Jesus Christ, thine unspeakable gift. Herein indeed, is love, not that we loved God, but that he hath loved us, and sent his Son to save us. What are we, O God, that thou shouldest thus be mindful of us; what is our father's house, that thou shouldest thus visit us? We are the children of a day, the feeble insects of an hour; we are a people laden with iniquity. Our fathers have sinned, and we their children have borne their transgression. From the sole of the foot to the crown of the head there is no soundness in us. If thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquity against us, who of us could stand? but with thee there is forgiveness, that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption, that thou mayest be sought after. We come to thee in the name of our great High Priest. We accept of the gift of eternal life, through faith in his blood. Enable us ever to evince the heavenly origin of our faith, by its purifying the heart, and working by love, and producing those peaceable fruits of righteousness, which are to thy praise, and honor, and glory. Let the same mind be in us which dwelt in our blessed Master. Like him, may we delight in retiring from the world to hold communion with the God of heaven. Like him, may we rejoice in those opportunities which are offered us for going about doing good to our fellow-men, while we study, at all times, to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and by a careful continuance in well-doing, seek for glory, honor, and immortality. We desire this morning to give thee thanks for thy protecting care during the night, for the sweet and refreshing rest we have enjoyed, and for the comfortable circumstances in which we are permitted once more to assemble around the family altar. Be with us, O Lord, to aid us in our duty this day, in our going out and coming in, in our rising up and sitting down. In all our ways we would acknowledge thee. Do thou, Lord, direct our steps. Every day of our lives, may we become more conformable with thy blessed will, more prepared for thy service upon earth, and the enjoyment of thee in heaven. And when the purposes of thy providence with us on earth are finished, may an abundant entrance be administered to us, into thy kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—JOHN VI. 41-71.

WE desire, O Lord, this evening, to bow the knee before thee, in humble adoration of thy glorious perfections, and while we would return thee our most grateful acknowledgments, for that goodness which has hitherto followed us, and particularly for those renewed proofs of it we have this day experienced, we would with deep prostration of heart confess our unworthiness of the least of all thy mercies. For which of thy commandments have we not broken? which of thy precepts have we not trampled upon? If we say we

have not sinned, we deceive ourselves, and make God a liar, for he hath declared that there is none righteous, no, not one. We feel, O Lord, the truth of thy declaration. Our hearts condemn us, and how much more must he who is greater than our hearts, he who knoweth all things, in whose eyes the heavens themselves are not pure, and who chargeth even his angels with folly. With deep humility would we confess before thee our transgressions, earnestly imploring pardon through the blood of thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, of him who when rich became poor, that we, through his poverty, might be made rich. Of thee may he be made unto us wisdom, and knowledge, and sanctification, and redemption, and may we, renewed by the influences of his blessed Spirit, be enabled to abound in all those fruits of righteousness which are to the praise and the glory of God. We rejoice that he is proclaimed to us as the bread of life, of which if we eat, we shall never perish. May we then be partakers of this living bread, and eating his flesh, and drinking his blood, may we now have life in us, and through him be raised up at the last day. But at the same time, may we ever bear in mind that it is the Spirit who quickeneth, and that it is the words which the Saviour hath spoken, that are spirit and life. May we, then, ever prove that his word dwelleth in us, by the whole tenor of our life and conversation. God forbid that we should be among the number who with a name to live, are yet dead in their sins, or with a form of religion, are strangers to its power. God forbid that while we profess to follow the Saviour now, we should hereafter go back and walk no more with him. Rather let us, with our faces towards Zion, ever move onward in our Christian course, experiencing the blessedness of the man whose sins are pardoned, and whose iniquities are remembered no more; of him who, having put his hand to the plough, never looketh back; of him, whose path is like the morning light, which shineth brighter and brighter unto the perfect day; and then when he who is our life appears, we also shall appear with him in glory. We desire to commit to thee the keeping of our souls this night, as to a faithful Creator. Do thou who sleepest not nor sleepest, preserve us from all evil; give us the sleep of thy beloved, and when we awake may we still be with thee. If spared to open our eyes to the light of a new day, may we rise with gratitude for thy preserving care, and with minds determined to enter upon the duties of a new day, with a single eye to the glory of that God whose we are, and whom we are ever bound to serve. Hear our prayers, O Lord, forgive our sins, and accept of us in Jesus the Beloved. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL XXVIII.

OUR Father who art in heaven, listen, we beseech thee, to our humble prayers, while, on the morning of a new day, we would approach thee in the attitude of children, and with the confidence of

those who draw near to a Father both able and willing to help them. But how shall we approach the God of heaven and of earth? Alas, we have sinned, and are not worthy so much as to lift up our eyes to the place where thine honor dwelleth. How many are the blessings we have abused—how many the privileges we have misimproved! We have despised the counsels of the righteous; we have stood in the way of the sinner. Truly, O Lord, we are unworthy to be called by the name of children. But although we be unworthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us, and blessed be thy name, that his blood cleanseth from all sin, and that thou art in him reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. We are therefore encouraged to come to thee by him; in his name to make known to thee our wants, and through him to look to thee as our reconciled God and Father, to call thee Abba, Father, and to implore of thee those blessings which thou dispensest to thy chosen. We thank thee, on the present occasion, for thy goodness during the night watches, for the sweet and refreshing rest we have enjoyed, and for the comfortable circumstances of health and strength in which we are permitted once more to surround the family altar. We would implore thy blessing on the head of each of us now before thee; and in whatever capacity we are placed, and however connected with each other, whether as husband or wife, parent or child, brother or sister, master or servant, enable us to discharge aright each the duties of his station. May we remember our responsibility to thee, and so conduct ourselves as we shall wish to have done when called to render in our account. With ourselves, we would pray for the parish and congregation with which we are more immediately connected. May our pastors be faithful, and may the people grow up as willows by the water-courses, with minds seasoned with the truth as it is in Jesus. Revive religion among us, and may many, from time to time, be found seeking the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, We are journeying to the place of which thou hast said, I will give it thee. We pray for the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom, and for the approach of that blessed period, when Jew and Gentile, bond and free, shall be brought within the bonds of the everlasting covenant; when all shall know thee, from the least even unto the greatest, and when thou shalt have forgiven all their iniquities. With the sick and the afflicted would we unite our tender sympathy. We would especially pray for any in whom we may feel more immediate interest. Send them, we beseech thee, help from thy holy habitation. Prepare the dying for their departure hence. Spare useful lives, and let spared lives be devoted to thy service. Comfort all who mourn; pour the balm of consolation into the troubled breast, and uphold the bowed down. Now, O Lord, we look for thy guidance and direction throughout this day. Be at our right hand and at our left, that we may not be greatly moved. Lead us not into temptation. Deliver us from evil. Conduct us in the way everlasting, and bring us at last to thy kingdom and glory. For all that we would ask or expect is for the Redeemer's sake, to whom, with Father and Eternal Spirit, be all the praise, world without end. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—JOHN VII. 1-27.

MOST holy and ever-blessed God, we desire this evening to draw near thee in the all-prevailing name of our great High Priest, with whom thou art ever well pleased, and through whom thou art ever ready to dispense the choicest of thy blessings to those who ask in faith. Thou art our God, and we will bless thee, our father's God, and we will exalt thee. Our fathers trusted in thee, and thou didst hear their cry; we their children, who have risen up in their stead, would approach thee, the God of our fathers, rejoicing in thy promise to be the God of their children, and of their children's children, even to the latest generation of them that seek thee. But alas, O God, what reason have we to blush and be ashamed when we take thy holy name into our sinful and polluted lips? Our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. We have rolled sin as a sweet morsel under our tongue, and our most holy actions have been stained with guilt. In approaching thee, O most merciful God, we would lay our hand as on our mouth, and our mouth as in the dust, and we would say, God be merciful to us sinners. Enter not into judgment with us, for in thy sight no flesh living can be justified. Look not on us as we are in ourselves; for we are all as an unclean thing before thee. But look upon us, O Lord, in the face of Jesus thine anointed. For his sake, come over the multitude of our provocations; receive us graciously, love us freely; create us anew unto good works, and enable us henceforward to abound in the fruits of righteousness, which are, through Jesus Christ, to thy praise, and honor, and glory. We desire to glory in nothing but the cross of Christ, by which we are crucified unto the world, and the world unto us. While we look to the Saviour as the foundation of all our hopes, we desire to imitate him in all his imitable perfections, and to grow in conformity with his blessed image. But alas, O God, we feel our weakness; for when we would do good, evil is present with us, and how to perform that which is good, we know not. To thee, therefore, would we look for that assistance of which we stand in need. Let thy Spirit help our infirmities. May he dwell in us richly, renewing our wills, purifying our affections, elevating our desires, and drawing out our whole souls after thee, and the remembrance of thy name. And in whatever circumstances of life we are placed, may we be enabled to evince the temper and disposition of those who are born from above. In prosperity may we acknowledge the hand that feeds us, and makes our cup to overflow; in adversity may we bow with filial submission before the rod of a Father who afflicteth not willingly, nor grieveth his children, but for their good. In health may we devote our better days to thy service, and in sickness have cause to say, it is good for us to be afflicted. While we live, may we live to thee, and when we come to die, may we resign our spirits into the hands of him who gave them, in the humble hope of a blessed and a glorious resurrection;

and at last, may we all appear, being gathered one after another, as a family, before thy throne, there to serve thee for evermore. We give thee thanks for thy goodness throughout another day, and again would we implore thy protection during the slumbers of the night. May our meditations on thee be sweet during the night watches; and if spared to see the light of a new day, may we rise from our beds of rest with our bodies refreshed, our hearts full of gratitude to the Author of every good and every perfect gift, and our minds more than ever determined, that whatever others do, as for us we will serve the Lord; and grant that, advancing from one degree of heavenly attainment to another, we may all at last come, in the unity of the faith, in the bond of love, to serve thee in thy kingdom of glory, and the praise shall be thine forever, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—1 SAMUEL XXXI.

O God, thou hast spoken to us at sundry times, and in divers manners, and in these last days by thy Son from heaven. Yet how many of us are of those who rebel against the light, and know not the ways thereof. Consider our case and hear our complaint, O Lord God; lighten our eyes, lest we sleep the sleep of death. Cause us to know the way wherein we should walk, for we lift up our souls unto thee. Teach us to do thy will, for thou art our God. Thy Spirit is good; lead us unto the land of uprightness. Lord, what man is he that liveth and shall not see death? The mighty are exalted for a little while, and then cut off as the tops of the ears of corn. Yea, God destroyeth the perfect and the wicked. Teach us, then, to number our days; and with all diligence may we prepare to meet our God. Let us remember how men shall clap their hands at the wicked, and kiss him out of his place, lest we too be brought down to the sides of the pit. But assured that the death of his saints is precious in the sight of the Lord, may we fall asleep in Jesus, and have our inheritance in light. Help us, Lord, to wait patiently till our change come. May we do nothing that will shorten our days in the midst. Let not our course be finished until it be fulfilled. Lead us not, then, into temptation, O God, and if sinners entice us may we not consent. Yet neither let any of us put an occasion to fall in his brother's way, but may we have grace to walk in wisdom toward them who are without. Amid all the changes of earth, may it be our consolation to discern an immutable God on high, and exclaim, He is steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. Yet Lord, how long? When wilt thou deliver up the kingdom to the Father? Lord Jesus, come quickly! Behold, the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. Behold, we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan for the redemp-

tion of the body. Come then, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Bid the trumpet sound, and swallow up death in victory. Say, Behold I make all things new, and let the earth bring forth her bud. Take to thyself thy great power, and bring thy sons from afar, and thy daughters from the ends of the earth! Ransom the dust of thy chosen, and fashion it according to thine own glorious body. Claim the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession; and let there be nothing to hurt or destroy therein. Let our eyes behold the new heavens and the new earth, and there may we dwell with thee and all thy saints forever! All that we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—JOHN VII. 28-53.

BLESSED be Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! We give thanks to God, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who spared not his own Son, but delivered him up to death for us all; and never would we cease to cry, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. O thou eternal Son of God, we cannot worship nor love thee as we ought. But we adore thee, as the brightness of the Father's image, and to whom is given a name above every name. Thou art the wisdom of God, and all things that thou hast heard of the Father, thou hast made known unto us. O! as thy friends, may we do whatsoever thou commandest, and show that we are under the law to Christ, though redeemed from its curse. Our understanding is indeed darkened, and our heart perverse; and it is the condemnation of many, that they love the darkness rather than the light. But give us an unction from the Holy One, and we will walk in the Spirit, and not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. Place us under the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, and we shall be made free from the law of sin and death. Yet may we never forget, that even the joy of the Holy Ghost is connected with the receiving of the word, and must be built upon the truth. May we wait for the Spirit, yet search the scriptures. May we quench not the Spirit, yet prove all things. May our faith stand not in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Glory be to thy name, O God, for having put the offer of salvation through the word, within the reach of all, and yet how many know not the law and will be accursed! O thou Spirit in whose hands are the hearts of all men, allow not any to judge themselves unworthy of eternal life. Show them that the same Lord over all, is rich to all who call upon him; and by thy secret energy may they so feel the power of all that Jesus ever said, that they shall exclaim, The words that thou speakest, they are spirit and they are life. O Lord, we thank thee, that we may hope that there are some, who, at least, are awakened by the truth, though they may not dare yet to confess it. Let us, in the spirit of meekness, help all such; and in due time may we see them speaking of thy testimonies before

kings and not ashamed. Blessed Jesus, let all of us be more forward to avow thy cross, and defend thy cause, constrained by thy suffering for us. Marvellous love! that prompted thee to leave the radiance of glory for the shades of earth—the society of heaven for the solitude of a desert. Marvellous love! that passed by all the provocations of malice, and grew more attached to man the more he hated thee! Blessed Jesus, fill us with the Spirit of thy love, and help us to reflect its image. For thee, O let us not refuse the prison, or exile, or death. And what is easier, though rarer for thee, enable us to love our brother, and forgive our enemy. Amen.

Twentieth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS LXII. LXIII.

LORD, teach us what is man, and seeing that even in his best estate and of high degree, he is but vanity and a lie, let us never trust to an arm of flesh. Show us also, O God, what the world is; and let us feel that, even with all its riches, it is lighter than vanity, so that it may not be set in our hearts. But make known thyself to us, and it will suffice. Enable us to embrace thee through thy Son, and our soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and with fatness. Great, indeed, is the glory of thy power, and the thought of it makes us tremble. But also unto thee belongeth mercy, and in the multitude thereof we shall come unto thee, and not be consumed. We could not have known thee, O God, without thy word; blessed, therefore, be thy name that thou hast spoken unto the sons of men. Yea, let thy name be praised. Some of us have beheld thy excellence, and thy grace has proved sweet unto their taste. Lord, we remember thy love to us in time past; and still following hard after thee, we beseech thee to enrich our poverty, and allay our thirst, and sustain our weakness, and dissipate our sorrow, and enlarge our wisdom, and irradiate our purity out of the treasures of thy fulness. O never let us miss thee in the sanctuary, neither deprive us at any time of those ordinances through which we are wont to commune with thee. In the courts of thy house let us always meet with thee, O God of our salvation, and till we exchange the temple on earth for the temple of heaven, let none compel us to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. But shouldst thou ordain for us a different lot, O God, grant that even in the wilderness of persecution we may retain our sense of thee; even amid the night of trial may we behold our God; even on the bed of death may we sing the praises of thy name. O God, we know that affliction is grievous, and that we especially

shrink from the wrath of man. But let nothing and let no one discompose us or make us afraid. Help us to retire at once to thee as our confidence, and exclusively trust in thee as our refuge. May we be silent under the stroke of thy hand, yet never for a moment doubt of thy salvation. As for the thoughtless enemies of thy cause and people, pity them, O God, and show them thy terrors, lest suddenly they come to naught. But if they will not be afraid, Lord, hasten and subdue them. To thy judgment-seat we look for an end to all the ills of time and all the wrongs of men, and we shall wait in silence till thy sentence stops forever the mouth of those who speak lies, but carries the righteous up to glory. Lord, hear these our humble prayers, for the sake of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS LXIV. LXV.

O GOD, our praise shall wait for thee, alike in the courts of thy house and amid the scenes of thy creation. We shall acknowledge thee as the Creator and confidence of all ends of the earth, and we shall adore thee as the hearer of prayer and the God of our salvation. Being girded with power, thou settest fast the mountains by thy strength. Thus far, hast thou said to the sea, shalt thou come, and thou stillest the noise of its waves. Thou createst the light and the darkness. It is because thou hast ordained it that seed-time and harvest, and heat and cold, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall never cease. O that all men would wisely consider thy doings, and that we, who dwell upon the earth, were afraid of thy tokens, O God. Lord, enable us to sing forth the honor of thy name, and make thy praise glorious, for how terrible art thou in thy works! Thou still visitest the earth, and doest according to thy will among the inhabitants thereof. Not a sparrow falleth to the ground without thy decree, and the hearts of all men are in thy hand. O may we mark thy terrible things in righteousness, and declare the work of God. Let us ever trust in thee, however dark our lot, and may we feel assured that in vain will the fowler lay his snare for them who have fled beneath thy wing. Holy Father, it is in thy sanctuary that thou showest all thy glory, and spreadest out all thy treasures. O that we may ever enjoy the privilege of dwelling in thy courts, and be satisfied with the goodness of thy holy temple. Truly we are not worthy of so exalted an honor, and in our natural state we cannot even relish such blessedness. But purge us with hyssop and we shall be clean. Renew us in the spirit of our minds, and we shall taste and see that the Lord is good. Thanks be to thy name, O God, Jesus died for our offences, and has risen again for our justification. May each of us be washed in his blood and clothed in his righteousness. Glory to our exalted Head, the Holy Ghost is now given because Christ is glorified! Let all of us be filled with the Spirit, and by him enlightened, purified, strengthened, and refreshed

according to his glorious power. O what matters it, if, by our union to Christ and separation from the world, the ungodly hate and persecute us. Still glad in the Lord, and never weakened in our trust, may we bless them who curse us, and feel confident in regard to ourselves, that God will ever keep us, until in due time he bring forth our judgment like the light, and our righteousness as the noon-day. Hear the voice, O God, of our prayer, and as for all our transgressions do thou purge them away, for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—2 SAMUEL II.

EVER-BLESSED Jehovah! from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, be pleased, of thy great mercy, to endow us with all spiritual and heavenly blessings in Christ Jesus our Lord. Most especially do we pray thee for the gift of thy Holy Spirit, whom thou hast graciously promised to bestow on them who ask thee. Without his enlightening and sanctifying grace we can neither understand thy truth, nor do thy will. May he teach us to know, love, and obey thy blessed word. Under his guidance may we always walk in the way of thy testimonies, doing those things which are pleasing in thy sight. By his grace may we be made in all things to submit ourselves to thy gracious and holy disposal, and to be in thy hand as the clay in the hand of the potter. May the life we live in the flesh be by the faith of the Son of God; and by faith justified, may it ever be our chief aim, as the disciples of Jesus, to glorify God with our bodies and spirits, which are his. And whilst we would desire to live to thy glory, do thou, merciful Father, keep us from being tempted beyond what we can bear. From the pollutions of our own hearts, and from the artifices of our great enemy, deliver us; sanctify us by thy truth, and preserve us to thy kingdom. We are most unworthy to ask these, or any blessings from thee. Pardon, O Lord, our manifold unworthiness, and in thy compassion answer our humble prayer, supplying our wants according to thy riches in glory by Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom is all our hope. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—JOHN VIII. 1-30.

Most holy and merciful God! Father of the spirits of all flesh! unto thee would we now together lift up our hearts in prayer. Lord! teach us to pray aright, in faith, asking of thee those things which are agreeable to thy will in the name of Christ, our Mediator. We would now render thee our humble and hearty thanks for all

thy merciful kindness towards us, throughout the course of this day. Around thy footstool would we now say in fervent gratitude for thy goodness, Hitherto the Lord has helped us. Goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life. O! our souls, bless the Lord, who loadeth us with benefits. Be stirred up, all that is within us, to praise him who is the health of our countenance, and our God! Almighty and everlasting Jehovah! we would specially magnify thy name together for Christ, thine unspeakable gift, through whom we have access again into the presence of thy majesty, and are enabled, in filial confidence and love, to say unto thee, Abba, Father. We bless thee for his mission, obedience, and death; for his victory over death; for his continual intercession in the heavenly sanctuary; for his perfect righteousness; for his quickening Spirit; and for his blessed word, the gospel of our salvation. May we rest in faith, on his finished work, as our only ground of hope towards God, knowing that our very righteousnesses are as filthy rags in the presence of infinite purity. Preserve us from insincerity and hypocrisy, in professing discipleship to Christ. Deliver us from a selfish and worldly spirit. May we have the same mind that was also in Jesus. May the Holy Spirit take of the things of Christ, and show them unto us, in demonstration, and in power. May thy word be the man of our counsel. By it may we be admonished, instructed, warned, and guided in the way wherein we ought to go, and may we never be allowed to turn aside from the path of thy testimonies, to the right hand, or to the left, but may our path be like that of the morning light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Let us have redemption through the blood of Christ, even the forgiveness of our sins. And may the peace of God, which passeth understanding, keep our hearts and minds until the day of Christ, our Lord, in whose name we humbly present these and all our supplications. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—2 SAMUEL V.

ALMIGHTY God! King of kings, and Lord of lords, thou art governor among the nations. Thou rulest supreme throughout the universe. Thou art the eternal source of wisdom, order, and peace. In thy favor is the stability of thrones, and the prosperity of kingdoms. To thee we gratefully ascribe the blessings which we enjoy, as the subjects of a paternal government, and as the citizens of a free state. Above all, we bless thee for the light of thy holy word; and for the gospel and kingdom of Christ. May his throne be established in our hearts! To his government may we yield the homage of a devoted and hearty allegiance; always, and in all things, seeking his glory. May we be partakers of the blessings which he reigns to impart. May we now know him in the fellowship of his sufferings, and in conformableness to his death; and

when the trials and sorrows of this sad and fleeting scene are over, may we, of infinite mercy, be received into his presence, and reign with him in his kingdom! Blessed God! hasten the period, when all men shall know thee, from the least to the greatest. Have respect unto thy covenant, and visit, in thy mercy, the dark places of the earth that are full of the habitations of horrid cruelty. Let thy saving health be known among all nations! Let the people praise thee. Lord! let all the people praise thee. And let thy best blessing rest on our native land. Specially preserve and bless our Queen, and all inferior magistrates. May they rule in thy fear; and under them may all the interests of the nation prosper by thy blessing! Hear us, O Lord, in these our prayers; and when thou hearest, forgive; defer not, but answer; and do unto us according to thy great compassion, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—JOHN VIII. 31-59.

Most holy God! with whom sin cannot dwell, have mercy upon us sinners! By sin we have been brought very low, we have lost thine image; we have forfeited thy friendship; we are obnoxious to thy wrath. Thy law we have broken; thy grace we have despised. We have never appreciated as we ought, thine unspeakable gift; we have often lightly esteemed it. Not seldom have we rested in a mere profession of godliness, and in the enjoyment of external privileges, whilst we were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenant of promise, and without God, and without hope in the world. Thy wrath is revealed against all ungodliness, and unrighteousness of men. We are unclean, we are undone. We have sinned, and what shall we answer thee, O thou preserver of men? Most merciful Jehovah! we bless thee, that with thee is redemption that thou mayest be sought unto; and that where sin aboundeth, grace doth much more abound. We bless thee for the gift of thy Son, whose blood is the propitiation for our sins; and in whom thou art just, and the justifier of the ungodly. We rejoice that whosoever believeth in him shall never perish, but shall have eternal life; and that all who by faith in him are delivered from condemnation, are not only commanded by his word, but by his grace are enabled to walk in newness of life. Lord, bless and pity us. Cause the light of the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Christ, to shine into our hearts. Leave us not to perish under the guilt and power of sin, whilst the message of eternal life is proclaimed to our acceptance; but, in this the day of our merciful visitation, may we have grace to lay hold of the hope set before us. May Christ be infinitely precious to us, as he is to all who believe. May our hearts rejoice in his love. May our lives show forth his praise. Give us the victory over the world, the devil, and the flesh. May we be thine forever, in the bond of that covenant which is or-

dered in all things and sure. Have mercy upon all men. Turn again the captivity of Jacob. Restore the exiles of Judah. Bless the ends of the earth, with thy salvation. These our humble and unworthy supplications we present before thee, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—2 SAMUEL XV.

Most merciful Father, we approach thy throne in the name of our adorable Redeemer, beseeching thee to accept of our morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Make us more and more deeply sensible of our obligations to love and to serve thee. We offer up our expressions of gratitude for the mercies we have received during the night; for the refreshing repose we have enjoyed; for the protection extended towards us during the unconscious hours of slumber; for the blessings which we have already received this morning; and for the comfortable circumstances in which, as a family, we have been permitted again to meet. Graciously be pleased, O Lord, to guide and protect us during the day on which we have been allowed to enter. Most earnestly do we implore thee to impress on our minds the lessons of thy holy word, and to enable us, under the influences of thy most blessed Spirit, to act agreeably to the dictates of thy revelation. Prevent us, we entreat thee, from indulging in unholy ambition, or discontent, or pride, or from exhibiting any want of affection towards each other, in the several relations in which we stand. Allow us not for a moment to give way to any hypocritical pretences, or to seek, in our intercourse with our fellowmen, to attain evil objects by assuming a religious character. Ever let us be animated with the pure, and elevated, and charitable spirit of the gospel of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As we profess ourselves to be his followers, we fervently pray that we may have a constant solicitude to possess the mind for which he was distinguished while on earth. And while characterized for our personal devotedness to thy service, help us, we most humbly beseech thee, to take a sincere and holy interest in the circumstances of those with whom we are in any way connected, sympathizing with them in their troubles, and alleviating their cares and their sorrows as far as lies in our power. And, O God, if it please thee, let us all, during this day, find favor in thy sight. Impart to us, individually, such a sense of thy presence and thine almighty power, as shall fill us with joy and comfort, and elevated emotion. Ever let us confide in thy promises, and trust in thy gracious protection. But shouldst thou be pleased, most holy and sovereign Disposer of events, to hide thy blessed countenance from us, and to show us, by the events of thy providence, that thou hast, on account of our numerous and aggravated transgressions, no delight in us, we do most earnestly implore thee to enable us, in the spirit of the most pious submission, to

adopt the language of thy servant; and to say, Let the Lord do to us what seemeth good unto him. And, while thou dost chastise us for our manifold offences, leave us not entirely, nor take thy Spirit from us, but in thine own due time restore us to thy favor, and bless us with the light of thy countenance, and receive us at last to thy glory. Bless all who are dear to us. Keep them from evil, and give them all thou knowest to be for their good. Hear our humble prayers. Pardon the sins of this approach, and do to us above what we can ask or think, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—JOHN IX. 1-21.

FATHER of lights, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we, thine unworthy children, presume again to lift our eyes to the throne of thy glory. We cannot praise thee enough. We cannot thank thee with sufficient earnestness for thy constant preservation and kindness. Thou hast been very gracious to us this day. Thou hast supplied our various wants. Thou hast kept us from the evils and dangers to which we are at all times exposed. Thou hast surrounded us with goodness and mercy. Thou hast imparted to us blessings which, in thy sovereign mercy, thou hast withheld from many more deserving of thy favor. O give us truly grateful hearts. Make us feel thy paternal love. And we most ardently beseech thee to give us grace to manifest our gratitude, by the increasing spirituality of our minds and purity of our actions. We lament our natural unthankfulness and disregard of thy providential tenderness. We feel ourselves naturally to be blind, and naked, and miserable. But, O we bless thee with all our heart, that Christ has come into the world to enrich and enlighten all who come under the power of his instructions. We rejoice that he declared himself to be the light of the world. O let us richly experience his illuminating influences. Deeply impress our minds with the consideration, that he that followeth him shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. Let us follow him. Anoint the eyes of our understanding with thy grace, that we may behold the world of spiritual glories which thy word has disclosed. We know, from past experience, that unless we be enlightened from above, we cannot see the things of the Spirit of God. O send us daily to wash in the fountain of the Redeemer's blood. And, O Lord, enable us, even in the midst of thine enemies, undauntedly to confess the name of our blessed Master, and to acknowledge the blessing which we have derived from his mercy and his love. Let us have deeper convictions of the divinity of his character and mission, and let us never shrink from avowing our adherence to his sacred cause. May we never be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, but having experienced it to be the power and the wisdom of God to our salvation, may we walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called, and let our light so

shine before men, that they may be induced to glorify thee, our heavenly Father. And we entreat thee, most merciful God, to send forth thy light and thy truth, throughout our dark and benighted world. May the Sun of righteousness everywhere arise with healing in his rays, and may the period speedily arrive when he, who is the light of the world, shall entirely dispel the darkness which covers the earth, and the gross darkness which surrounds its nations. O make us more and more interested in the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, and to the utmost of our power make us instrumental in diffusing the heavenly light, with which we pray that our minds may be more richly illuminated. We commend to thy love and protection all our dear friends, relations, benefactors, and well-wishers; the sick, the distressed, and the dying. O Lord, be very merciful to them all, and bless them according to their necessities. Be with us this night. Keep all evil from our dwelling. Give us the sleep of thy beloved. Restore us to the duties of another day, and help us to glorify thy name, and to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. Graciously hear these our humble supplications. Pardon all our short-comings, and do to us above what we can ask or think, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—2 SAMUEL XVII.

O LORD, we bless thee, that we have been once more allowed to celebrate thy praises, to read a portion of thy word, to meditate on its lessons, and to prostrate ourselves at thy footstool. We acknowledge ourselves to be unworthy of the very least of all thy mercies, and we adore thy goodness and thy love, which, notwithstanding our transgressions, continue to be extended towards us. Truly thy mercies are new to us every morning, and we are every instant experiencing the tokens of thy loving-kindness. We deplore our ingratitude and our forgetfulness of thy most undeserved regard. When we contemplate our natural corruptions, and our actual and multiplied offences, we cannot sufficiently express our thankfulness, that thou hast told us in thy word that we have an advocate at the right hand of the divine majesty, even Jesus Christ the righteous. Most humbly do we plead forgiveness, on the ground of his all-sufficient atonement and prevailing intercession. We flee for refuge to lay hold on this wonderful hope, which has been so graciously set before us. We desire to trust with greater exclusiveness and simplicity in his perfect righteousness, and to make it the only ground of our dependence for salvation. O Lord our God, be pleased to receive us for his sake, and increase our faith, and blot out all our transgressions, and inspire us with holy determinations; and pour on us, in richest abundance, the influence of thy Spirit, and sanctify us wholly, and preserve us unblamable. Make thy word more and more the instrument of our spiritual advancement. Sanctify us by

thy truth. Deliver us from all evil and unnatural sentiments. In all the relations in which we are placed, let us be animated with the lofty spirit of Christian sympathy and love. And with whatever afflictions, in the course of our journey onwards to æternity, thou mayest be pleased to visit us, on account of our transgressions, let us ever remember, that if really thy children, thou wilt make everything work for our good. We rejoice in the consideration that all hearts are at thy disposal, and that thou turnest the thoughts of men as rivers of water. We know, and we feel it delightful to acknowledge, that nothing can befall us but what thou dost permit, and what is under thine omnipotent control. And we bless thee for the experience thou hast already afforded us, that of thine infinite compassion thou dost mingle unspeakable mercies with all the chastisements with which thou seest meet to visit thine erring children. Let us acknowledge thee in all our ways, and mercifully direct all our steps. We throw ourselves, O thou God of all grace, on thy protection during this day. We beseech thee, to guide us and to enable us continually to glorify thy name. We commend to thee all who are dear to us, and we entreat thee to have mercy on our ruined world, and to spread the knowledge of thy truth among all its families. And hear these our prayers, and accept of us and our services, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—JOHN IX. 22-41.

O LORD, we again prostrate ourselves before thy throne of mercy and love. Bow down thine ear, and hear us. Fill our souls with enlarged and lofty apprehensions of thine infinite perfections. O Lord, how worthy art thou to receive our most implicit homage, and our deepest adorations. We are thy children, continually depending on thee for life and all its enjoyments. And thou art ever exercising over us thy paternal superintendence. We are the constant monuments of thy compassion and thy care. And O we are most unworthy of thy continued mercies. While every day is giving us new and resistless evidences of thy goodness and tenderness, we are sensible that we are every day altogether undeserving of thy gracious providence and protection. We have this day again been unmindful of thy presence, and of the perpetual obligations we lie under to dedicate our time and all our advantages to thy service. How seldom hast thou been in our thoughts; and O how very forgetful have we been of the riches of thy grace as manifested in the glorious gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ. We do most sincerely lament, that the great and purifying truths of thy blessed revelation exert such a limited influence on our minds and character. We lament the strong and frequent dominion which sin has over us. Pardon, O Lord, we most humbly beseech thee, pardon the transgressions we have again this day committed against thee; pardon us

for his sake who loved us, and who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from iniquity. O Lord, let thy mercy be great toward us. Turn unto us, and have mercy upon us; and give strength to thy servants, and show us a token for good. O confirm our faith in thy most holy word, and enlarge our knowledge of the gospel of thy Son. We trust that our eyes have been opened by his Almighty power. God grant that we may all be able, from blessed and delightful experience, to say, that although we were once blind, yet we now see. O let us more and still more distinctly see thy truth, and more impressively feel its power. Make us ever rejoice in being called the disciples of Jesus, and let us, in all circumstances, prove the genuineness of our discipleship, by the freedom and boldness with which we plead his cause, as well as by letting our light shine before men. Let us ever adore him for all his mercies toward us, and especially for the measure of spiritual light which he has imparted to our minds. Enable us cordially to rejoice, that for judgment he has come into the world, that he is exalted above all principalities and powers; and that at the right hand of the divine majesty he dispenses the blessings of his salvation to his church, and to his people individually. Let us all be partakers of his grace, and ever preserve us from the deceitful imagination that we have already all the spiritual light which we require. May we constantly come to the light, that our deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God. Accept of our thanks for all the mercies of this day. Be with us during the night. Keep us, and all dear to us, from evil; preserve us to see the light of a new day, and let us, one day after another, till we come to the close of our lives, grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. All we ask is for his sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—2 SAMUEL XVIII.

MOST merciful and gracious God, we would draw near unto thee through that new and living way which thou hast opened up, and we would lay on thine altar the sacrifice of thanksgiving for all the blessings of thy goodness. We bless thy name that thou hast preserved us during the past night, and raised us up in health and comfort to the light of another day. Let us never forget that it was by thy power we were created, that it is by thy providence we are sustained, that thou art the God of our lives, and the length of our days. We would look to thee as the Sovereign of the universe, and pray to be kept in subjection to the Father of our spirits. We would bear in mind that thou hast not only called us into being, but hast appointed us our place in the world; and in whatever situation we are, may we learn therewith to be content. May we not set our affections unduly on the things of this world, the fashion of which passeth away; but may we be daily laying up our treasure in

heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, but where peace and happiness forever reign. We have wickedly cast off our allegiance, and lifted against thee a rebellious arm, and had mercy not rejoiced against judgment, we must now have been associated with those apostate spirits that are reserved in chains of darkness, till the judgment of the great day. But blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. As his professed disciples, may we be enabled to forsake all and follow him. Quicken us, O Lord, by thy spirit, that we may be alive unto thee; revive us by thy grace, that we may live a life of faith on the Son of thy love. Establish our hearts in thy fear, and guide our feet in the way of thy commandments; then shall we advance in the path of the divine life, and attain a meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. O keep us back from presumptuous sins, cleanse us from secret faults, and make us to know, in our happy experience, the peace of those who love thy holy law. Give us that fear which is the beginning of wisdom, and that love which is the fulfilling of the law, and that charity which is the bond of perfectness, and all those graces which are the fruit of the Spirit, that we may show out of a good conversation the power of the gospel in renewing the heart, and regulating the conduct of the true believer. And when at last the time shall come, that thou wilt take down the earthly house of this our tabernacle, may we be found ready to enter into the habitation prepared for the faithful, even that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Take us under thy special protection this day. Wherever we are, and whatever we do, may we set the Lord before us, knowing that to thee we must at last give an account. We pray thee, to bless all whom we should remember at a throne of grace. Bless our friends, reward our benefactors, and forgive our enemies. And now we plead that thou wouldest hear our prayers and accept our sacrifice, through him whom thou hearest always, and in whom thou art ever well-pleased, our strength, and our Redeemer. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—JOHN X.

WE desire, O Lord, to draw near unto thee, believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee. We desire to worship thee as the former of our bodies, and the Father of our spirits; as the God of our lives, and the length of our days. We have nothing which we have not received, and we can hope for nothing which comes not from above. We would bless thee for the mercies of the past day. Thou hast supplied our wants. Thou hast defended us from danger. Thou art the author of every good and perfect gift. We would especially magnify thy name for

the hope to which we are begotten through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. We desire to rest in his merits, and rejoice in his mediation; for he is the good Shepherd that has given his life for his sheep, and he is able and willing to save unto the uttermost all that come unto thee through him. He died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and the gift of eternal life he will bestow on as many as believe on his name. We pray thee to unite us to him by that faith which is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. Let not sin reign in our mortal bodies, but let Christ be formed in our hearts the hope of glory; that we may be found walking before thee, blameless and without rebuke. Enable us to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts. Of ourselves we are insufficient for anything that is good; but we would rest in the promise of heavenly aid, and even glory in our infirmities, that the power of Christ may be made manifest in us. O let us be sanctified by thy truth, and guided by thy Spirit, and upheld by thine Almighty arm; then shall we triumph over every spiritual enemy, and be made meet for joining those who, through faith and patience, are now inheriting the promises. We bless thee for the instructions and consolations of thy holy word, and for the discoveries thou hast given us of thy character, and the promises thou hast made of thy grace in this message of love and peace. Enlighten our minds that we may understand its lessons, renew our hearts that we may walk in the way of its commandments, and prepare us for the full and final enjoyment of all those blessings which are the certain heritage of the true believer. We desire to cast on thy mercy, and commit to thy love, all whom we should remember when we approach a throne of grace. May he, of whom the whole family of heaven and earth is named, bless every family and every individual who belongs to the household of faith. And may those who are still afar off, be brought nigh through the blood of the everlasting covenant. Thou art a God of compassion, and we commend unto thee, those who are afflicted in body and wounded in spirit. And grant that those who are approaching the gates of death, may be drawing near the land of their eternal rest. We beseech thee to take us all under thy protection this night. Refresh our bodies with rest, and our spirits with the communications of heavenly love, and if it be thy blessed will that we see the light of another day, may we be prepared for its trials and its duties, by the direction and aid that cometh from above; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—2 SAMUEL XXI.

O LORD, we adore thee as the sovereign and righteous ruler of the universe. By the dispensation of thy providence, and by the declarations of thy word, thou hast taught us that it is an evil and bitter

thing to forsake the Lord our God, and still our delight has been in the pleasures and service of sin. But we rejoice to know that there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption that thou mayest be sought after. We praise thy name that thou hast opened up a fountain for sin and for uncleanness, and that thou hast invited all who will to repair thither, that they may be purified from their guilt. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and we pray that, for his sake, thou wouldst create within us clean hearts, and renew within us right spirits. O create us after thine own image, in righteousness and true holiness. We come before thee according to thy commandment, and we wait for a Father's blessing. Grant unto us the attainment of personal holiness; bestow on us the gift of domestic peace; and, not only united by the ties of natural affection, but by the bond of Christian love, may we have the well-founded hope of being associated together, when the ransom of the Lord shall enter on their incorruptible inheritance, and when, in thy presence, they shall have fulness of joy. While we live in the world, may we live as members of the household of faith, as children of the family of adoption, and as heirs of the heavenly inheritance, that thus washed, and justified, and sanctified, we may be prepared for joining the spirits of the just made perfect in the land of uprightness and rest. Make us grateful for the privileges we enjoy, make us diligent in the use of the means we possess, and make us ready for the change that awaits all living, then shall we be enabled to say with thy servant, For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. We desire to make supplication for all men. Awaken the thoughtless to a sense of their danger; arrest the wicked in their guilty career; and give light and strength to those who are asking the way Zion-ward. Have compassion on the afflicted, impart consolation to the mourner, and prepare the dying for a happy immortality. Let our friends be blessed with thy favor, and our enemies experience thy forgiving mercy. And now, O Lord, we commit ourselves and all that is dear unto us to thy fatherly care. While we enter on the duties of this day, let a sense of thy presence restrain us from sin, and quicken us in every good work; and let nothing separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—JOHN XI. 1-29.

How excellent, O Lord, is thy name in all the earth! Thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Thou alone art worthy to receive all blessing, and honor, and glory, and praise, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. We bless thee that thou hast opened up a way of access into the holiest of all, and that we have the privilege of drawing near unto thee,

through him who is the way, and the truth, and the life. Great, O Lord, is thy goodness, and thy tender mercy is over all thy works. Thy loving-kindness is new unto us every morning, and thy faithfulness every evening, and what shall we render unto thee for all thy benefits? We desire to offer unto thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving for the daily gifts of thy providence, for thou hast watched over us with a tender care, and supplied our wants with a liberal hand, and it is because thou art kind and of long-suffering patience that we are still in the land of the living and the place of hope. But we would especially adore thy love and thy compassion, as manifested in the gift of thy well-beloved Son. We bless thee, that through the Lord our righteousness thou hast redeemed us from the captivity of sin, and ransomed us from the power of the grave, and raised us to the honor and the hope of those who are sons of God, and heirs together of the grace of life. May we live mindful of the shortness and uncertainty of time, knowing that here we have no continuing city, and may we be making daily and active preparation for that change which will call us away from the place we now occupy. It is appointed for all men once to die, and after death cometh the judgment; but we rejoice to know that he on whom our help has been laid, is the resurrection and the life, and that all who sleep in Jesus shall be raised up, by divine power, to the possession of a life that shall never end, and to the enjoyment of a happiness that shall never be interrupted. Let this hope soothe our sorrows, and purify our affections, and elevate our desires, and quicken our diligence, that through the means of grace we may attain that holiness necessary for the enjoyment of the heavenly kingdom. As partakers of a holy calling, and candidates for an immortal prize, may our affections not be on this world, but on those things that are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God; that thus filled with the Spirit, and animated with the hope of another and a better country, we may go on our Christian way rejoicing. Let the promise of a coming redemption inspire us with fortitude, and patience, and resignation amidst the sorrows and trials that abound in the land of our pilgrimage, knowing that the end of all such troubles is at hand, for in the paradise above there shall be fullness of joy, and pleasure for evermore. It becomes us to acknowledge thy goodness to us in all that we daily enjoy; and we desire to commit ourselves to thy care during the silent watches of this night. If thou art pleased to spare us to the light of another day, O prepare us for the enjoyment of its privileges, and the performance of its duties. May we hallow thy sabbath, may we encompass thine altar, and may we know, in our happy experience, that it is a good thing for us to wait on thee in all the ordinances of thine appointment. May the word of thy grace and the service of thy temple be blessed for our spiritual improvement, that ours may be the path of the just, which, like the morning light, shineth more and more unto the perfect day. We pray for the speedy arrival of that time when the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. Give unto thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost ends of the earth for his possession, that all nations may see thy sal-

vation, and every people call him blessed. Hear us in behalf of all for whom we should pray. Thou knowest their condition, in mercy supply their every want. We wait for thy promised blessing,—lift upon us the light of thy countenance, and give us peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.



Twenty-First Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS LXVI. LXVII.

OUR Father which art in heaven, grant unto us, for the sake of thy dear Son, the gift of thy Holy Spirit, that we may worship thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Quicken us, O Lord; our souls cleave to the dust. Cause that while we are expressing the words of devotion, our hearts may be devout. Holy Father, we are unworthy to be called thy children. We have sinned against thee, and what can we answer, O thou preserver of men? Behold, God our shield, look upon us in the face of Jesus, thine Anointed. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast sent him into the world, to obey, and suffer, and die for us, and that thou hast revealed him unto us, as the way, the truth, and the life; the only and the all-sufficient Saviour. Our eyes have seen, and our ears have heard, what prophets and wise men desired to see and hear, but were not permitted. Our ears have heard the glad tidings of a perfect salvation, provided in Christ Jesus, for the very chief of sinners, and we trust that by faith our eyes have seen Jesus as our own ever-living and ever-gracious friend. What can we render unto thee, O Lord, for all thy goodness to our souls? We bless thee, for all we have received of thy kindness, in the days that are past; for all the warnings, and reproofs, and consolations of thy good Spirit; for all the instructions and comforts of thy holy word; and for all the care and watchfulness of thine adorable providence. We bless thy name for the means of grace, and especially for the opportunity which this day affords of going up into thy house to worship thee, and hear thy message of peace. O send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead us, let them bring us into thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. Then will we go unto the altar of God, unto God, our exceeding joy. Bless Zion's provision everywhere this day, and send forth each of thy ministering servants to his people, in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ; so that this sabbath may be a great day of the Son of man, a day on which multitudes shall be added to the church of such as shall be saved, and all thy people built up in their holy faith. O Lord, have mercy on the lands where no

sabbath is enjoyed, where no Saviour is known. Cause the light of thy gospel soon to shine upon them, that all nations may fear thee, and all people praise thee. Accompany with thine effectual blessing all the efforts of thy servants in heathen lands to bring men to the Saviour, and endow us with that spirit of holy benevolence which will not be satisfied till the saving knowledge of God be circulated over the whole earth. Be present with our friends and brethren in affliction. Make known to them the joys of thy salvation. Sanctify their troubles for the good of their souls. Forgive the thoughtless and irreligious in the midst of us. Bring them to a better mind, and by thy grace lead them to receive and rejoice in the Saviour, whom hitherto they have despised. Again we implore thy favor and friendship for ourselves. Our hope is in thee, and our confidence in thy mercy. Never leave us, never forsake us. Deal bountifully with our souls, and graciously accept of us, and of our service, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM LXVIII.

MOST merciful Saviour! behold from heaven thy dwelling-place, us thine unworthy worshippers, and give ear to the voice of our supplications. Thou art crowned with glory and honor, adored by all the hosts of heaven; thou art King of kings, and Lord of lords, God over all, and blessed forever. Blessed be thy great and glorious name, that we are permitted and invited to address thee as our Lord, and that thou hast bidden us ask anything from thee, with the assurance that thou wilt bestow it upon us. O Lord, give us for thine own name's sake, of those gifts which thou hast received for rebellious man; give us, we entreat thee, that faith without which it is impossible to please God, that evangelical repentance, without which we must perish, that holiness, without which no man can see the Lord. Give us, we beseech thee, thy Holy Spirit of promise, that all these graces may be implanted and flourish in our souls, and that we may be built up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation. Give us, O Lord, the portion of thy redeemed family, the bread of life which thy children eat, the hopes which thy children cherish, the character which thy children exhibit, the honors with which thy children are crowned, the heaven in which thy children shall dwell forever. Gracious Lord, we ask all these things believing; for thy mercy and truth's sake bestow them upon us. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless thee that thou hast raised him up, and given him glory that our faith and hope might be in thee. We believe that thou art reconciled to us through the merits of thy Son, and we hope in thy faithfulness, and goodness, and justice, and power, in him. O let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand; upon the Son of man, whom thou madest strong for thyself, so will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we

will call upon thy name. Heavenly Father, we bless thee for thy great goodness manifested to thy church on this day of the Son of man. Thou hast given the word, and great has been the company of them that published it in our own and in other lands. Let thy Spirit descend upon it, as the rain and the dew from heaven, that by means of it thy weary heritage may be refreshed again. Do thou especially bless thy word addressed to us; enable us to receive it as the word of God, which is able to save our souls. Bless thy ministering servant who was this day the helper of our faith and joy in the Holy Ghost; strengthen his hands, and encourage his heart, and make him a great blessing to us, and all that worship with us. Gracious Lord, forgive the sin of our holy things, of unworthy hearing, of the want of suitable interest in the great things which belong to our peace. Bless the whole church of Christ upon the earth; add to her daily such as shall be saved. Bless the poor and friendless, the diseased and the dying; supply their wants and save their souls. Protect us during the night; if thou art pleased to spare us, go with us into the duties of the week. Let the love of Christ constrain us to live in all things, not unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and who rose again. Hear, answer, and accept of us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—2 SAMUEL XXIII.

O God, thou art our God, and we will praise thee; thou art our fathers' God, and we will exalt thee; thou art the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we will magnify thy name together. We bless thee for all thy loving-kindness and tender mercy towards us. We are guilty, and merit nothing but thine everlasting displeasure; we are depraved, and cannot serve thee or love thee as we ought. Yet hast thou been favorable to us, and loved us freely. We bless thee for the salvation which is in Christ Jesus thy Son. We bless thee that he, in the prospect of whose coming dying David rejoiced, hath appeared and put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Gracious Father, interest each one of us in his obedience and death, that we may have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Enable us to lay hold of that covenant of which he is the mediator, thine own everlasting covenant, which is ordered in all things and sure. Give us grace to submit ourselves to the authority of him who is the just One, to make his law our delight and our study all the day, and to have it for our meat and our drink to do his holy will. We praise thee, O God, for the light of another morning, and for the rest and refreshment of the past night. We bless thee for all the instruction, and consolation, and reproof addressed to us yesterday in the house of prayer, and for all the precious blessings of the Christian sabbath. We beseech thee let not thy word return unto

thee void. Cause it to prosper in the thing wherefore thou hast sent it, and to be unto us the savor of life unto life. Keep us in thy fear all the day long. Whether we are in the house or by the way, whether we are mingling with our brethren, or walking in solitude, may we cherish the sentiment, Thou God seest us, and do all things honestly as in the sight of all men. While we are diligent in business, make us fervent in spirit, serving thee. Father of all the families of the earth, bless our family and friends; lift the light of thy countenance upon them, and be gracious unto them. Grant, O Lord, that all who are our relatives may be the friends of Christ, and heirs of his everlasting kingdom. We beseech thee to visit in mercy our afflicted brethren, and to pour the balm of thy consolation into every grieved soul. Let thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. O let the people praise thee, let all the people praise thee. We beseech thee, keep our hearts in the love of God, and preserve us to thy kingdom and glory. Mercifully forgive our sins, and hear our prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—JOHN XI. 30-37.

GOD of all grace and Father of consolation, we come before thee acknowledging that sin has been our ruin; that because of sin, the abominable thing which thou hatest, we suffer, and die, and are liable to thine everlasting displeasure. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. We come before thee in the name of him whom thou hearest always, the sinner's surety and the sinner's friend. We bless thee because thou hast made him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Gracious Father, unite each one of us to thy Son, by the faith which unites the soul to God, and the saints to one another. May our family be an emblem of the great family of the Redeemer in heaven, each member of which is accepted in the Beloved, and blessed in him forever. We thank thee for all the comforts of the day which has closed upon us; that thou hast led us out and brought us in, not permitting any evil to come near us. We bless thee that thou hast not made our house a house of mourning; that we are all alive and in peace before thee. O so teach us to number our swiftly passing days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. When thou art pleased to afflict or bereave us, may Jesus, the comforter of his people, be our help and protection; and when we come to die, may he who raised Lazarus from the grave strengthen us against the fear of death, saying, Fear not, I will both go down with you, and I will bring you up again. Have compassion upon those to whom thou hast appointed long nights and wearisome days of trouble; let their afflictions be for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified thereby. Spare lives that are useful to fam-

illies, to the world, or to the church. Our Father which art in heaven, bless all mankind. Be especially gracious to our relatives, and neighbors, and fellow-worshippers; grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied to them all. Keep thy good hand around us during the silence of the night. Prepare us for all that is prepared for us in the world; enable us to spend all the days of our sojourning here in thy fear, and to be looking for and hastening unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Graciously forgive our sins, and accept of us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—2 SAMUEL XXIV.

O LORD, we adore thee as the Supreme Disposer of all events. Thou hast arranged, and art directing, all things for the manifestation of thine own glory, and for the advancement of the best interests of all thy people. Though thou be seated upon a throne high and lifted up, yet we know that thou lookest down from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory, and beholdest the things that are done upon earth. We draw nigh unto thee, O God, at this time, earnestly beseeching thee, for the sake of Him whom thou hearest all ways, to lift upon us the light of thy countenance, and to visit us with thy great salvation. Bring us to a true sight and sense of our natural state of sin and misery. Show us the evil nature and infinite demerit of sin. Enable us, as perishing sinners, to lay hold on eternal life. May we be justified freely by thy grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. May we be adopted into thy family, and constituted the sons and the daughters of the Lord Almighty. May we be sanctified in soul, body, and spirit, by the operation and influence of thy Holy Spirit, and made fit in due time, for dwelling in the regions of everlasting purity and felicity. O God of our salvation, we learn from melancholy experience, that we are living in a world of sin, of suffering, and of sorrow. The king of terrors, in manifold ways, continues to commit ravages all around us. He is directing his shafts with unerring aim, and multitudes are daily and hourly cut off from the land of the living. Shield us, O Father of mercies, from the attacks of the destroyer, till we be prepared for quitting this mortal and changing scene, and for entering into a state of endless glory and felicity. May we be enabled to say with thy servant of old, O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. And when we have fulfilled the high purposes of the moral government of God in this world, may we have an entrance ministered to us abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Heavenly Father, we thank thee for watching over us during the past night. Watch over us, we entreat thee, during this day. Command thy richest bless-

ings to descend on us, who are now worshipping before thee, and on all who are connected with us by whatever tie. Be our God and our guide continually, and our portion through all eternity. Bless abundantly the whole human race with the blessings of the gospel, and hasten that happy time, when thy will shall be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. These our humble supplications are now before thee. May they be heard and answered, and may we be accepted and blessed, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—JOHN XII. 1-22.

ALMIGHTY God, and most merciful Father, we worship and adore thee as the first and the last, the greatest and the best of all beings. Thou art exalted inconceivably far above all blessing and all praise; for thou art the infinite, the eternal, and the unchangeable Jehovah, dwelling in light which is inaccessible and full of glory. Thy happiness and thy glory are independent of all the works which thou hast made: and thou standest in no need of the services even of the highest and holiest of those spirits that dwell with thee. Thou art the source of being and of blessedness to thy moral and intelligent creatures,—the giver of every good and every perfect gift. We desire at this time, most gracious God, to bless and to magnify thy holy name, for all thy goodness and loving-kindness unto us,—for all the bounties of thy providence, and for all the riches of thy grace. Bestow on us, we beseech thee, the good things of this present life in that measure which thou seest to be best for us, and most conducive to the manifestation of thy glory. And whilst thou art filling our hearts with food and gladness, O do thou make us partakers of all those great and glorious blessings, which our divine Redeemer came down from the mansions of glory to purchase and to bestow. May we be washed in the atoning blood, and clothed in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, and be permitted at last to join the blessed company of the redeemed in heaven, that we may celebrate the praises of the God of our salvation, in songs of gratitude and love, which shall have no end. O Lord, we thank thee for the various means of grace, and of spiritual improvement, which thou hast provided for us, and commanded us to employ. Enable us, we implore thee, to give diligence to make our calling and election sure, that we may make suitable and sufficient preparation for eternity. Holy Father, we would now express our gratitude to thee for that watchful care which thou hast exercised over us during this day. Continue, we beseech thee, to watch over us, in the silent watches of the night, with more than a parent's care. Permit us to see the light and the comforts of another day. And lead us to consider that every day which passes over our heads is bringing us a stage nearer to death and the grave. Lord, bless the whole of our family circle

Bless all our friends, and relations, and acquaintances; and forgive our enemies. Bless all the tribes and nations which are on the face of the earth. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS VI.

O THOU that dwellest between the cherubim, we praise thee as the high and the holy One that inhabitest eternity, and the praises of Zion, whose name is Holy. Thou art a God of spotless purity and holiness, of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. The heavens themselves are not clean in thy sight, and thine angels thou chargest with folly. How much more than man that is of the dust! How much more the sinful and perishing children of men! We rejoice to believe, O Lord our God, that, notwithstanding the sinfulness of our race, thou didst condescend to dwell with thine ancient people,—that thou didst take up thy residence in the temple which was erected for thy worship and glory,—and that thou didst say of Zion, This is my rest forever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. We bless thee that, while the temple is no more at Jerusalem, thou art erecting for thyself many spiritual temples. May all of us be living temples, in which thou wilt be pleased to dwell, and by which thy glory will be unfolded more and more in the sight of thy creatures through all eternity. Father of mercies, and God of all grace and consolation in Christ Jesus, we would make our grateful acknowledgments unto thee for the abundant provision which thou hast made for us in time and in eternity. Thou hast in store for us an inexhaustible treasury of the very richest blessings,—blessings great as our nature can sustain, and lasting as eternity itself. All these blessings we know thou art now offering to us without money and without price, if we will but come and ask thee. May we ask, then, that we may receive; may we seek, that we may find; may we knock at mercy's door, that it may be opened to us. While we ask the fulfilment of all thy great and precious promises for ourselves and for all who are near and dear unto us, we would not be unmindful of the rest of our brethren of mankind. O may the dark places of the earth, which are still the habitations of horrid cruelty, soon be converted into happy land, in which righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost shall universally prevail. May thy church be purified from its corruptions, and may it be extended till it shall fill the whole earth. We thank thee for permitting us to enjoy the light and the comforts of a new day. Keep thy good hand around us this day, to protect us from all the dangers and the temptations to which we may be exposed. May these our humble prayers ascend with acceptance before thy throne through the merit of our exalted Redeemer, to whom with thee the Father and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all praise and glory, both now and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—JOHN XII. 23-50.

O LORD, we acknowledge thee to be our creator, our preserver, and our bountiful benefactor. Thou didst create us after thine own image, in knowledge, in righteousness, and in holiness; but we have fallen from a state of innocence and happiness into a state of sin and misery. Notwithstanding our unworthiness, thou hast continued to preserve us in existence, and thou art constantly supplying our manifold wants with the good things of this present life. But, above all, thou hast made most astonishing arrangements, whereby we may be saved from the tremendous consequences of sin, and raised to the enjoyment of inconceivably great and glorious blessings during the whole course of an endless life. When we reflect on the number and the magnitude of the blessings which thou art conferring on us, we are lost in astonishment, for we are conscious that we are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies. Bless the Lord, O our souls: and all that is within us, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all our iniquities; who healeth all our diseases; who redeemeth our lives from destruction; who crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. We bless thee, O God, that when there was no eye to pity us, and no hand to help us among created beings, thine own eye pitied us and thine own arm brought us salvation. Thou didst lay our help on one mighty to save, even on thine only-begotten Son, who is equal to thyself in power and in glory. And we rejoice to believe, that he did not hesitate to descend from his throne of glory in the heavens, and to veil the uncreated excellencies of his Godhead with the robe of our humanity, that he might be in circumstances to suffer and die in our room and stead. O may we be enabled to confide in him as all our salvation, and all our desire, that we may be permitted, in due time, to join the general assembly and church of the first-born in heaven. May we be enabled to believe in him as the light of the world, that we may be conducted by him to the regions of everlasting light and felicity. Thou hast been pleased, O God, to bring us to the termination of another day. We thank thee, for all the goodness, and mercy, and grace, which thou art continually making to pass before us. Thou art causing the outgoings of the evening and the morning to rejoice over us. Thou art daily loading us with thy benefits. We commit ourselves to thy fatherly protection during the night, and when we awake in the morning, may we be reminded of the morning of the resurrection, when we shall rise to be openly acknowledged, and acquitted in the view of assembled worlds. O God of our salvation, grant that the time may soon come, when the glad tidings of eternal life shall be published in every language, and in every land: when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea; and when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and when he shall

reign forever and ever. Hear, O God, in heaven, these our humble prayers, and send us an answer in peace, for our divine Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS VIII.

O God, the supreme, independent, and ever-blessed Jehovah, we would this morning lift up our souls unto thee, filled with wonder and grateful adoration at the riches of thy grace and condescension towards us, the creatures of thy power, the objects of thy bounty the sinful and undeserving monuments of thy long-sparing goodness. We bless thee that thou who didst manifest thy gracious presence in the midst of thy people of old, by types and shadows, hast, in these last days, dwelt with man upon the earth, through him who, being the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, hath by himself purged our sins, and sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high; and now that Jesus our true ark and mercy-seat hath entered into the holy place not made with hands, we would look by faith unto him as all our hope and confidence before thee. For his sake, O do thou who dwellest between the cherubim shine forth; have mercy upon us, according to thy loving-kindness, and according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions; send down upon us thy Holy Spirit, in all his enlightening, and sanctifying, and comforting influences; shed abroad thy love in our hearts, and give to us an interest in all the blessings of that everlasting, and well-ordered, and sure covenant, which the blood of Christ has ratified. O grant unto us that we may be members in truth of Christ's mystical body, even of that church which is built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone; in whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth into an holy temple in the Lord, and in whom all thy people are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. And we pray thee, that thou wouldst graciously accept and answer the supplications of thy people throughout the whole earth, ministering to all their necessities, hearing them in the day of their trouble, sending them help from the sanctuary, and strengthening them out of Zion. Do thou raise up, also, human instruments, zealously disposed to seek the good of thy house, and especially may kings be nursing fathers and their queens nursing mothers to the church, that through the influence of their authority and example, accompanied with thine own blessing, all the people and the kingdoms of the earth may be gathered together to serve the Lord. Look down thyself favorably upon thine heritage, granting times of refreshing from thy presence, and let the time, even the set time, to favor Zion, speedily arrive. We thank thee for thy preserving goodness through the past night, and implore thy

protection and guidance throughout this day. May we be assisted in duty, may we be shielded in the midst of temptation, may we be encompassed with thy favor, and may we be kept in the fear of the Lord, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost. Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—JOHN XIII.

MOST merciful and ever-blessed God, we would draw near unto thee this evening with the spirit of grace and supplication richly poured out upon us, and having our fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ, may we experience the blessedness of the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee. O do thou give unto us increasingly to see our need of that precious Saviour whom thou hast provided, and may we be found in him, washed in his blood, justified through his righteousness, and sanctified through his Spirit. We confess that we are daily sinning against thee, and that we have therefore daily need of recourse to that blood of sprinkling which speaketh better things than the blood of Abel. Do thou pardon whatsoever thou hast seen amiss in us this day, whether in thought, in word, or in deed, and do thou sanctify us wholly, in spirit, in soul, and in body, that we may henceforth depart from iniquity in one and all of its forms, that we may hate it as that abominable thing which the Lord our God hateth, and that we may walk in all the commandments and in all the ordinances of the Lord blameless. Do thou bless unto us that portion of thy word which we have now been reading, and enable us to have the witness within ourselves that we are the objects of that everlasting love which Jesus bears to his own people. May the same mind be in us which was also in him, and in lowliness of mind, esteeming each other as better than ourselves, may we walk in love even as Christ also hath loved us, and given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor. May the sacred principle of love unite us with a pure heart fervently to the whole household of faith; may no office of kindness to thy people appear too low for us, and to do good, and to communicate, may we forget not, seeing that with such sacrifices the Lord is well pleased. And we pray, O heavenly Father, that thou wouldst heal the divisions of thy church, and whilst thy people earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, may they endeavor also to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Forbid, O Lord, that we should either deny the Lord who bought us, or betray his cause; and do thou preserve us from all self-confidence, that relying upon that grace by which alone we can stand, and animated with the hope of living and reigning with Christ hereafter, we may be steadfast and

unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labor shall not be in vain in the Lord. We acknowledge with grateful hearts thy bounty and loving-kindness vouchsafed to us this day, and we commit ourselves and all who are dear to us to thy care and keeping throughout the silence of the night. Hear us and accept of us, for all that we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS IX.

O LORD, on this, the morning of another day, we desire with humble boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, in the new and living way which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil of his flesh. May we draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed as with pure water. We would contemplate thee in the united glory of thy character as a just God and also a Saviour, and conscious of our own unworthiness in thy presence, would bless thee for all the confidence which, through the Son of thy love, we are permitted to cherish towards thee as the hearer of prayer, the God in whom compassions flow, and the covenant God and Father of all who believe. Look not on us as we are in ourselves, guilty, and polluted, and exposed to thy righteous displeasure, but behold, O God, our Shield, and look on the face of thine Anointed. For his sake take away all our iniquity and receive us graciously; heal our backslidings and love us freely; remember us with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people; O visit us with thy salvation, that we may see the good of thy chosen, that we may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that we may glory with thine inheritance. May we taste and see that the Lord is gracious; and in the experience of thy mercy, may we increasingly feel the obligations under which we are placed to live devoted to thy service. Forbid that at any time we should sin that grace may abound, and presumptuously expect the gladdening influence of the light of thy countenance lifted up upon us, whilst we forsake thy law, and walk not in thy ways; and may thy Holy Spirit so work in us, both to will and to do of thy good pleasure, that in integrity of heart and in uprightness, we may do according to all that thou hast commanded us, keeping thy statutes and thy judgments continually. We pray, O Lord, that thy church may everywhere be built up. May the number of them who love and fear thy blessed name be increased, and through their exertions and prayers may the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom be speedily established throughout the whole earth. We thank thee for the mercies of the past night, and entreat that thy gracious presence may be with us throughout this day. May we and all who are dear to us experience thy Fatherly care, and enjoy not only the gifts of thy providence, but the saving

blessings of thy grace. Come over the mountains of our provocations, and send an answer in peace to the voice of our supplication, for all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—JOHN XIV. ✕

O LORD, thou art over all, and art rich in mercy unto all that call upon thee. Do thou enable us this evening to offer unto thee the sacrifices of righteousness, and to put our trust under the shadow of thy wings. We adore thee as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and in him the God of salvation, to all who have fled for refuge, to lay hold on the hope set before them in the gospel. We thank thee for all that Jesus did, and taught, and suffered; for the holy example which he set before us, for the doctrine of eternal life which proceeded out of his mouth, and for that perfect obedience which he rendered unto thee, even unto the death of the cross, whereby he finished transgression, and made an end of sin, and made reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in an everlasting righteousness. We especially bless thee at this time for those gracious words of comfort which he spake in the immediate prospect of the hour and power of darkness, and which we have just been reading from thy holy word. Do thou work in our souls a principle of living faith in him, that amidst all the sorrows of this mortal life we may be enabled to place our confidence in thee as a reconciled Father, and in Jesus as the rock of our salvation. Do thou elevate our thoughts and affections to those many mansions in his Father's house, which our exalted Saviour has gone to prepare for his believing people, and walking as strangers and pilgrims upon earth, leaning upon Jesus as the beloved of our souls, may he at length receive us to himself, that where he is there we may be also. May we ever look to him, and trust in him, as the way, and the truth, and the life, through whom only there is access to the Father; and quickened by his Spirit, guided by his word, and confiding on his righteousness, may we be accepted in thy sight, and rejoice in him as all our salvation and all our desire. We thank thee, that whilst Jesus has ascended up on high, thou hast sent through him the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, to abide with thy church and people forever. May we, through this blessed Spirit of all grace, have true fellowship with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ, and the God of hope fill us with all peace and joy in believing, that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. We rejoice in the mediatorial honor with which the Saviour is now invested at the Father's right hand, and would look to his exaltation as the pledge of future glory and blessedness to all his people. May he preserve us by his mighty power, through faith, unto salvation. We thank thee for thy protecting care throughout the past day, and

now commit our bodies and spirits to thy keeping during the silence of the night. Ever watch over us and ours, and graciously forgive our sins, and hear our prayers, for all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be glory forever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS x.

WE approach unto thee, O Lord, as the self-existent and eternal source of life, for by thee have all things been created. We adore thee as the great preserver of the universe, for in thee all creatures live, and move, and have their being. Thou art infinite in wisdom and in power, rich in mercy, and unbounded in love, and all thy works show forth the glorious perfections of the living God. We desire especially to bless and magnify thy name, because of all thy goodness manifested towards us the children of men. Though we are utterly unworthy of thy regard, thou hast never ceased to care for us; though we have provoked thy wrath and fiery indignation by our manifold transgressions, thou hast sent thine only-begotten Son to die in our stead, and, by enduring the inconceivable agony of the cross, to make a propitiation for our offences. Make us to feel deeply our obligations unto thee, enable us to perceive our need of a Saviour, and in thine abundant love, grant unto us faith to rest on him, as all our hope and our desire. We thank thee, that thou hast given unto us minds capable of understanding the wisdom and goodness shown forth in thy works. O may thy Spirit descend upon us, and direct our thoughts to the understanding of thy perfections as manifested in the great work of our redemption. Teach us to know thee, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent; and grant thy blessing, that a deep sense of the mercy shown us may constrain us to depart from all iniquity. Preserve us from the pursuit of sin and folly, and make us ever to remember that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and that the knowledge of thy holy word is the only means by which we can be guided unto life everlasting. Forbid, O Lord, that the queen of the south should rise up in the judgment against us, because she sought to hear the wisdom of Solomon, while we neglect the counsels of thine own Son from heaven. Teach us to prize our privileges, and enable us to profit by them. Wean our souls from the love of earthly things, and enable us to fix them upon things eternal. Give us an interest in Christ, that, filled with the hope of a glorious immortality, we may look on all the pleasures of time as fleeting and uncertain, and, rising above the snares and temptations of the world, may have our treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, nor thief breaks through to steal. Whether thou sendest prosperity or adversity, keep us from forsaking thee, for thou art the only sure and abiding portion. Thou only canst comfort in life, support at death, and bless through eternity. Pardon the sins of the days that are past, and give us grace for the

time to come, that in the hour of temptation we may stand unmoved, and in the season of duty, may neither faint nor be weary in well-doing. Hear our prayers, O Lord, and grant an answer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—JOHN XV.

GRACIOUS God, and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, we desire to thank and praise thee for thine unspeakable love in sending thy Son to make our peace with thee. Make us ever to keep in mind, that without him we are dead in trespasses and sins, that by nature we are children of wrath and heirs of damnation. Cause us to feel deeply our own unworthiness, and to mourn after a godly sort on account of our transgressions. Set our sins in array before us, that seeing their number and manifold aggravations, we may be led to hate them and turn from them. Teach us the extent of our guilt and vileness in thy sight, that we may know the need we have of a Redeemer, and that we may, in some measure, be enabled to comprehend the length, and breadth, and height, and depth, of thy love to us in Christ; though fully to know it passeth all understanding. Send thy Spirit into our hearts, that we may be filled with love and gratitude to thee, and enable us to show forth the sincerity of our devotion, by loving our neighbor as thou hast commanded. Unite us to Christ and make us partakers of the spiritual nourishment that flows from him, that though dead and barren by nature, we may bring forth abundantly the fruits of righteousness to the honor and glory of thee, the Father. Pardon, we pray thee, the sins we have done. Our iniquities are more than the hairs of our head, and fearfully great have their aggravations been. We have sinned against thee, the great Creator, by whom we at first were formed; we have been unmindful of all thy mercies, though thou hast continually preserved us; yea, we have often followed the paths of folly and of sin, though the glad tidings of the gospel have sounded in our ears. Blessed be thy name, thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering and slow to wrath, and in thee there is redemption even for the chief of sinners. For Jesus' sake blot out our iniquities, and let them not rise up in judgment against us. Give us this night a peaceful slumber, and grant that we may arise in the morning, refreshed, and strengthened, and fitted for the duties of a sabbath-day. Be with thy ministering servants, whom thou hast appointed to distribute unto thy people the bread of life. Guide their thoughts to such subjects as may prove most beneficial to the people under their care, and grant that teachers and taught may be all taught of thee. Hear our prayers, and accept of our thanksgivings, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our great Redeemer, to whom, with thee the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be glory forever Amen

Twenty-Second Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXIX.

WE adore thee, O Jehovah, as the God of salvation. Thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations. We approach thy throne of grace with feelings of reverence and humility, for thou art glorious in holiness, but we are full of darkness and sin. Let not our iniquities cause thee to hide thy face, or to turn away our prayer from thee; but as thou hast revealed thyself in Christ as a sin-forgiving God, so do thou, for his sake, blot out our iniquities, and shine upon us with the light of thy fatherly countenance. O Lord, renew and sanctify us as well as forgive our sins. As our hearts are by nature dead unto thee and alive unto sin, void of all good and of all power to good, but full of all unrighteous lusts and passions, so we cannot glorify thee, nor ever enjoy happiness if thou dost not change our hearts, and enrich us with the divine and holy affections of thy Spirit. Lord, out of thy abundant grace in Christ, give us full measure of enlightening, renewing, and sanctifying grace. And may thy grace and Spirit in us be ever active and influential, so that we may not only be saved ourselves, but may also be instruments of thy glory in the world. Give us, O Lord, fortitude to confess Christ, and even, if need be, to suffer for him in the world. May the zeal of thine house so eat us up that we will be ever willing to extend its glory, although we should suffer reproach and persecution for thy sake. O forbid that inconstancy or apostasy should at any time distinguish our profession of religion before men. Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for our sakes; let not those that seek thee be confounded for our sakes, O God of Israel. Gracious God, do thou support and console us in all our trials and temptations; draw nigh unto our souls and redeem them; deliver us because of our enemies. Grant that by thy grace we may truly believe in Christ, and be maintained in our faith till thou call us hence, in spite of all our adversities and spiritual enemies. And now, O Lord, we give thee thanks for all thy past loving-kindness to us, and especially for our religious privileges, and for permitting us to see the light of this day of the Son of man. Prepare our hearts for the services of the sanctuary. May thy ministering servant be fraught with the riches of the gospel of Christ. May the people wait on thee with hearts prepared of the Lord, and may the Holy Spirit crown all the services of this day with his presence and blessing. Lord, enlighten the ignorant; subdue the hardened; comfort the distressed; and confirm and restore the weak and backsliding. We pray for the success of a preached gospel this day throughout the world. Destroy the dominion and existence of false doctrine in thy church, and of superstition in the world.

Hasten the glory of the latter day, when the church of Christ shall be universal, and when her people shall be all righteous. Hear these our prayers, and accept of us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS LXX. LXXI.

O LORD, we desire to approach thee this evening, and to adore thee as the Creator of all things, but especially as the God and Father of all who believe in Christ. We praise thee unfeignedly for thy redeeming mercy revealed through thy Son. We adore the sovereignty of it; we glory in the eternity, the riches, and the unchangeableness of it. O grant that since this everlasting covenant with Christ was devised by thee for the display of thy free grace in the salvation of the chief of sinners, we may be made partakers of its promises and hopes, its graces and its consolations. May all our comforts be covenant blessings, all our afflictions covenant corrections; may we see, in all the events and circumstances of our life, the fruits of Christ's death and the tokens of thy loving-kindness. O may we be thine in Christ; may our sins be forgiven, may our hearts be united to Christ, and may we be made heirs of heaven, and then we are sure that all things will work together for thy glory and our eternal good. We pray that thou wouldst bless to us the various dispensations of thy providence and the ordinances of thy grace. Do thou, in a special manner, sanctify our trials and afflictions, our bodily infirmities and diseases, our domestic difficulties and anxieties, our worldly losses and privations, and our reproach for the sake of Christ. May we have grace in all such trials to imitate thy servant David, of whom we have been reading, who made thee his refuge in his distresses, and who sang of thy mercies as well as of thy judgments. Do thou also bless to us the ordinances of salvation, and the numerous religious privileges we enjoy. May the services in which we have been engaged this day increase our knowledge of Christ, confirm our faith in him, and enlarge our love and devotedness to him. Pardon the languor or the distraction, the impatience or the unbelief, which may have polluted our feeble attempts to serve thee, and let our duties be accepted through the merits of Christ. We desire to feel deeply sensible of our precious privileges and means of improvement in every grace, and may we abound in the use of them more and more. We pray also that thou wouldst extend them to those individuals and nations that are destitute of them. Give efficacy to the gospel wherever it has been preached this day, and open for it a great and effectual door into hearts and regions from which it is still excluded. O clothe thy church in her robes of beauty, and fill her with the Spirit of Christ, and may she spread on the right hand and on the left, until her salvation go forth, like a lamp that burneth, to the remotest and the darkest habitations of heathenism and cruelty. We now thank thee for all the refresh-

ment our souls have received this day in the closet, at the family altar, and in thy sanctuary, and to thee we would commend ourselves this night. Avert from our dwelling the steps of the evil-doer, and the calamities to which we are exposed by fire, and by tempest, and by flood. Grant to us all refreshing sleep, and freedom from evil thoughts and dreams upon our beds, and may we awake in the morning in the enjoyment of health, with thankful hearts, and with strength and willingness for the duties of this week. But if thou hast ordained for any of us a sudden and unexpected summons into thy presence this night, O may our souls be prepared, by thy Spirit, for entering upon the services and joys of heaven. Hear these our prayers, as all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XII.

ALMIGHTY God, thou art the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Thou rulest supreme over all, directing everything for thy glory and the accomplishment of thy gracious designs. It is thou that raisest up and bringest low; thou woundest and thou healest; thou killest and thou makest alive. May we ever recognize and cheerfully submit to thy sovereignty, and even where we do not understand, teach us, O Lord, submissively to bow. O Lord, who alone art to be feared, we confess that we have not honored thee as thou oughtest to be honored. We have been proud and selfish, consulting our own pleasure, rather than thy glory, and leaning to our own understanding rather than seeking and waiting for the wisdom which is profitable to direct. O do thou forgive us this sin, and all our sins. Enter not into judgment with us, else we could not stand before thee. It is written in thy word, that if we confess our sins thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness; O Lord, we make a free and a full confession of all, we have no excuse and no apology to offer; for we have sinned against the clearest light and greatest grace, but for Christ's sake we pray and hope for mercy. We would put thee in remembrance of his sufferings and his death for us. Accept of this in the room of ours; through his stripes may we be healed, through his death may we live. O Lord, the fountain of all wisdom, direct us in all our decisions and endeavors. May we ever avoid the company and the counsels of the ungodly and the unwise, and choose as our associates and advisers those in whom is the fear of God, and who are partakers of heavenly wisdom. Teach us, gracious Father, ever to distrust ourselves, but to put our whole trust and dependence on thee alone. Lord, not our will, but thine, be done. And even at those times when trials and dangers await us, and when our anxiety and fear are greatest, then most of all would we renounce our own wisdom, which at best is folly, and rather say with our Redeemer, when in his great agony, Father, glorify thy name. Keep us from pre-

sumptuous sins; from prying into the secret things which belong unto God, or interfering with thy works or ways. Lord, bless our native land. May our rulers ever be preserved from false and foolish counsellors, and be led always to do what will be for thy glory and the good of the people. And O may our religious privileges be maintained in purity, and transmitted unimpaired to the latest posterity. Preserve us ever from idolatry, superstition, and will-worship. Almighty God, our constant preserver, we thank thee that we are alive and well this morning. Help us to remember the solemn exercises of yesterday. May we carry much of the solemnity and sacredness of the Lord's day into all the duties and exercises of the week. We need thy protection not only in the darkness of the night, but even in the bright sunshine of the day. Stretch over us the wings of thy Providence. We commend our friends to thy friendship, and our relations to an intimate relationship with thee. Sympathize with the sick and the afflicted. Bless all. Add this day to the number of those that shall be saved. Christ, strengthen thine own people. O Lord, hear, and answer, and accept of us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—JOHN XVI.

Most gracious God, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and who hast promised, that for his sake thou wilt hear us always, we beseech thee at this time to behold us in mercy. Look upon us, not as we are in ourselves, guilty and polluted, but behold us in Christ, righteous and accepted. We approach thee as our Father, through Jesus our surety and intercessor; we have no merit and no claims of our own, but we have a strong plea in the name of Christ. Of this we would make mention, and on this would we entirely rely. In ourselves we are vile, and deserve thy wrath and curse. O Lord, we deserve thy fiercest wrath, thy heaviest stroke; the lowest pit of hell might well be our portion. But we believe, and are sure, that Christ died for sinners, even the chief, and that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. O that we could realize Christ more as our Saviour; as having suffered and died for us, that we might be righteous; as ready to impart to us all the benefits of his death, all the riches of his grace. We believe that the Lord Jesus is now exalted at thy right hand, and he, whose word is true, promised that he would send the Spirit unto his people. We plead that promise; we entreat its fulfilment. O may the Holy Ghost be poured out from on high. May he be given to us, that we may be convinced of sin, of our need of a Saviour, and that Christ is the very Saviour we need, having a righteousness sufficient to justify us, and power to subdue us unto himself, and to restrain and conquer all his and our enemies. May we, being full of the Spirit, hate sin and glorify Christ. May that Spirit show us every day more of the loveliness, excellency, and glory of

our great Redeemer, that we may extol him more, and give our whole hearts unreservedly to him. May we be both sanctified and comforted by the Holy Ghost, and grow in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation. Sanctify to us all our trials and bereavements. O thou who of old didst enable the followers of Christ to glory even in the death of their Master, and to rejoice that he was taken from them, do thou enable us to rejoice in all our tribulations; to feel, when suffering under thy rod, that it is in very faithfulness thou dost afflict us, and to say, when the very desire of our eyes is taken away with a stroke, The Lord gave and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. O Lord, who art slow to wrath, and ready to forgive, we beseech thee to pardon the sins and shortcomings of this day. In everything we offend and come short, but with thee there is forgiveness, that thou mayest be feared, and plentiful redemption, that thou mayest be sought unto. O Lord, we could not lie down this night in peace, we could not rest in our beds, if we thought thou wert angry with us. We beseech thee then to be reconciled to us through Christ. May we know that though once thou wert angry with us, yet now thine anger is turned away. We commend ourselves, and all dear to us, to thy preserving and protecting care during the night. May no evil come near our persons or dwelling, but may we be spared to see the light of another day, and when we awake may we find thee still with us. Hear, good Lord, we beseech thee, these our prayers, and grant us all we need, and far more than we can ask, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XIII.

Most gracious God, our preserver from day to day, we approach thy footstool at this time with grateful hearts, to thank thee for thy watchful care during the night, and for all the blessings of this morning. We count it a great privilege that we are permitted and enabled to worship thee in the family; and as thou dost not now require the sacrifice of bulls or goats, we would desire to give thee the sacrifice of meek and contrite hearts. We come to thee, O Lord, through the blood of Christ, that full and perfect sacrifice that was once offered, and we earnestly beseech thee that through him we may find access to thy throne of grace. May our prayers ascend before thee, perfumed with the much incense of a Saviour's merits. We pray, Lord, for a meek and submissive spirit. May we never, like Jeroboam, murmur at thy threatenings or despise thy warnings; but may the terrors of the Lord persuade us, that we may repent before it be too late, and seek for mercy while it is to be found. We thank thee that the miseries and danger of a life of sin are so clearly pointed out in thy word, and that salvation and happiness are to be found in Christ Jesus. O God, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, we have to confess with shame before thee our great transgressions. What a holy law we have broken what a gracious Father we have

disobeyed! we have sinned against the clearest light. Thy great goodness herein served to call forth our heinous ingratitude and rebellion. How often have we sought thee in our adversity, in want, anxiety, or distress; and yet when relief was given, and health and prosperity returned, the Lord has not been in all our thoughts. How often have thy very answers to prayer, and deliverances vouchsafed, instead of endearing thee the more to us, and filling our hearts with new joy in thee, been the very occasion of estranging our affections from thee, and making us follow after vanity. O Lord, who art rich in mercy and slow to wrath, forgive our deep transgressions, and give us grace in time to come to improve by all thy dispensations; to see thy hand in all, and bless thee for all. Help us, O Lord, to consider and lay to heart what we have now been reading of thy strictness to mark iniquity, and of thy great jealousy over thy word. Teach us how dangerous it is to leave anything undone which thou hast commanded, or to act in anything contrary to thy revealed will. May we be watchful and faithful. Give us a love to thy law: a delight in thy commandments. May we regard whatsoever thou hast required as not only the law of thy authority, but the law of thy grace; given because thou lovest us, and seekest our good alway. Preserve us, O Lord, from lying prophets and false teachers, professing a charge from thee while they have received none. Bring down Antichrist, and all speaking lies in hypocrisy; but do thou own and honor thine own servants. Increase the number of faithful ministers, and increase greatly their success. Give them many seals of their ministry. Bless our own pastor; may he be a blessing to all committed to his charge. May we learn the law at his mouth, and find him an ambassador of Christ to us; every day enlarging our knowledge and confirming us in the faith. Bless the neighborhood where we dwell. May pure and undefiled religion prevail amongst us. May this place be as a field which the Lord hath blessed. Be with us this day, in our going out and coming in; do thou go before us and watch over us. Keep us from all evil, but especially from sin, the greatest of all. Hear these our prayers, and grant us more than we can either ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—JOHN XVII.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, we draw near to thee this evening, as children to a father, able and ready to help us. We rejoice that Jesus died for us. May we honor his death, and glory in his cross. May we count this as a pledge of love unspeakable, and love him who first and so loved us. We rejoice that he who died for our sins was raised again for our justification, and is now at thy right hand pleading for his people. O may we, who are the chief of sinners, through the merits and mediation of Christ be justified, accepted, and saved. Lord, make us monuments of thy redeeming love, trophies of Christ's power. May we be saved, that Christ may see

of the travail of his soul in us, and that we through all eternity may be monuments to the glory of his grace. Father, save us, that we may glorify thee; give us thy Spirit, that we may be quickened to serve thee. Sanctify us, create in us clean hearts, and renew in us right spirits, that we may be altogether such as thou wouldst have us to be; that from our renewed hearts thy image may be fully reflected; that all our motives and devices may be for thy glory. O may those members and faculties of ours which have hitherto been too much instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, become henceforth all of them the instruments of righteousness unto God. May thy good Spirit sanctify us wholly through thy truth, and may thy glory and praise be the end of all. O Lord, thou who hast a peculiar people of thine own, separate them more and more unto thyself; preserve them from the evil that is in the world, make them bold and decided in thy cause; and knowing what thou hast promised, and what Christ has asked, and is ever asking, may they be strong in thee, and hold fast the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end. Heal, we beseech thee, the breaches of Zion. May Ephraim no longer envy Judah, nor Judah vex Ephraim; but may all rejoice together. Lord, grant that all true Christians may press nearer to Christ, their common Head, that thus they may be more closely united to each other. May a spirit of mutual forbearance and mutual love be poured out, and may our great striving be how best to promote the glory of our common Lord. O thou who hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and wouldst rather that all should come to the knowledge of the truth, add daily to the number of those who shall be saved. May thy kingdom come, both at home and abroad, in our hearts, and throughout the world. O speedily give to Christ the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. Give much of thy Spirit to all ministers and missionaries of the truth; the more their difficulties and obstacles, the more help do thou give them from on high. We thank thee, gracious Father, for thy kind preservation of us during the day. Pardon the sins of this day, we beseech thee. Watch over us during the night. May our last and our first thoughts be ever of thee. Guide us by thy counsel here, and afterwards receive us up into glory. Bless all our relations and friends. Reward our benefactors, forgive our enemies, and teach us to forgive them. Hear, we beseech thee, these our petitions, and answer us, not according to the error or feebleness of our desires, but according to thy perfect knowledge of our wants, and thine own great mercies, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS xv.

O LORD our God, we approach unto thee this morning, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest and intercessor, beseeching thee to lift us on the light of thy reconciled countenance. We bless thee

that thou givest mercy, not because we are worthy, but because thou art gracious, and in covenant with thy Son, to bestow mercy upon thy chosen. May we be of their number. Impress upon our heart and conscience, the great lesson taught us by the portion of thy word we have now read, and meditated upon. Out of the treasury of thy grace may the love of God, and thy quickening Spirit, be poured out upon us, to deepen in our hearts the memory of thy great goodness, and our present unworthiness and past guilt. O gracious Father, make our heart perfect to follow thee fully. Help us to search out thy whole counsel, and incline us to walk by it. Let not the love of earthly ties, let not the claims of earthly rank, lead us from the path of duty; but help us ever to fear and love thee, and, relying upon thy strength, may we have courage to break loose from the fear of man, which bringeth a snare. Give us growing zeal for thy glory, that we may both glorify thee ourselves, and lead others to fear thy name. Spare us, we entreat thee; pour not on us the vengeance we deserve; let not our portion be with the Jeroboams of this world, who make Israel to sin. May it be ours in the might of thy Spirit, and the energy of thy grace, to redeem the time, and so to lift up a testimony for thee, that the sinners around us may be won to thy service, when they behold our holy conversation, coupled with fear. We would deplore the evil of sin, and confess thy spotless justice in visiting it with the rod of thy vengeance. We would deplore the desolations it has wrought in our own hearts and in the world; and lament the ruin it has wrought to thine own Israel. And we would pray, that whilst thou givest full triumph to thy word in our hearts, so that they be renewed in thy sight; while thou crownest with success the efforts of Christian ministers and missionaries, so that from the rising to the going down of the sun thy name may be praised; we would pray, that whilst thou graciously doest all this, thou wouldst have mercy speedily on Israel, and mercy on Judah, that, as one nation, they may be restored to their own land, and the privileges of the covenant. May the good Lord hasten this in his time. We bless thee for the mercies of the night; keep us in thy fear throughout the day. Keep our going out and our coming in, and spare us, that we may, at the close of the day, again surround thy throne of grace with songs of rejoicing, and say, Blessed be the Lord God, who hath not turned away our prayer from him, nor his mercy from us. Hear us graciously, and answer us according to the abundance of thy love, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—JOHN XVIII. 1-24.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, we draw near to thy throne of grace through the blood and intercession of thine own dear Son, to glorify thee for the mercies of the past day, and to cast ourselves upon thy kindness and care for the coming night. Ever blessed be

thy holy name, that the Lord Jesus condescended, in the fulness of his zeal for thy glory, and his compassion for us, to undertake and accomplish the work of our redemption. We would be humbled to the dust because of our sins, when we reflect upon the sufferings that Jesus endured on our account. O help us to see and to acknowledge that it was not Jewish malice and Gentile cruelty that bound and scourged him, crowned him with thorns, and nailed him to the cross; but our sins that exposed him to the hidings of thy countenance, and the fierceness of thy wrath. O grant that the Holy Spirit, whose office it is alone to take of the things of Christ and show them to thy people, may so manifest to us the sufferings of the Saviour, as to impress our hearts with just views of the evil of sin, and thereby incline us to hate it with a perfect heart. May that Spirit fill our hearts with the love of Christ, that we may love him who first loved us, who gave himself for us, and now intercedes on our behalf, at thine own right hand. And grant, O Lord, while we contemplate with wonder the firmness and courage of the Lord Jesus in the day of trial, while we glorify thee, that he shrunk not from the dreadest sufferings, that we may, in the apostasy of Judas, and the fall of Peter, discern our own weakness, and our utter inability to stand of ourselves in the hour of temptation. Grant, we entreat thee, that the contemplation of our Saviour's sufferings, and his disciples' weakness, may fill us with humbling views of what we ourselves are; and constrain us to leave ourselves in the hands of him who alone has grace sufficient for us. May we be able daily to carry about with us in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. May Christ live in us. May we live for him and to his glory. Let the knowledge of his redemption spread in the world. Give success to all missionary efforts, and the labors of thy ministering servants, and may the time speedily come when all ends of the earth shall turn unto the Lord, and all nations do him homage. Bless us with grace throughout the coming night. As the sun has not smitten us by day, so neither let the moon by night. Refresh us with the rest of thy Beloved, and raise us up to the health and strength of a new day. And under the constant guidance of thy supporting and sanctifying grace, may we be prepared to lie down in the grave in peace, and wake on the resurrection morn to the glories and blessedness of eternal life. All we ask is in and through the name of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XVI.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed Jehovah, thou art a great King above all gods, even the King of kings and Lord of lords. We draw near to thy throne in the name and through the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice that thy throne is a throne of mercy, that it is not as the thrones of men, a throne of wicked-

ness, but that justice and judgment are the habitations thereof, and that mercy and truth go continually before thee. We would acknowledge thy hand in the affairs of men and of nations. Thou doest with the monarchs of the earth and the governments of the world what it pleaseth thee. O who shall stand if once thou art angry? Thou hatest all the workers of iniquity. Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross; and in the day of thy vengeful wrath, nothing can save them from thy hand. Blessed forever be thy name that thy throne is a throne of grace, from which thou dispensest, to the poor and the miserable, blessings of grace and salvation, without money and without price, and that we are invited to come and ask that we may receive. O most holy God, we are vile and polluted transgressors. Put us not away in thine anger, chasten us not in thy hot displeasure; but, for Jesus' sake, visit us with thy salvation, and teach us to call thee Father, that we may hate our sins with all our heart, and turn from them to serve thee. When we see thy vengeance poured out on them that depart from thee, when we see how their sorrows are multiplied who hasten after other gods, O make us willing to bow in lowly submission before thee, as the true, the only God; yea, to take thee, as revealed in the Lord Jesus, to be our reconciled God and Father, to avouch thee to be our God even now and forever. O Lord, we acknowledge the perverseness of our will, and lament the ungodliness of our natural heart. We deplore before thee that we should be so blind to the evil of sin, as that abominable thing which thou hatest, and so hard to be persuaded that it is ruinous to ourselves. O gracious God, leave us not to be hardened to our ruin. May thy Spirit, who is of might and power to show us our transgressions, impress our hearts with true convictions of sin, and lead us to hate it with a perfect hatred. May he fill our hearts with holy desires and heavenly affections. May he wash us with the washing of regeneration, and visit us with his renewing influence, so shall we be thine indeed. Redeemed with the blood of Jesus from the power of sin and satan, justified freely by thy grace, adopted into thy family, and sanctified to bear his image, who is the first-born among many brethren, we shall then be able to live blameless and harmless, the children of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom we shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. We bless thee for the mercies of the bypast night and this morning. Carry us out this day in thy fear, and under the guidance of thy Holy Spirit. May we walk this day as seeing thee who art invisible. Hear our united supplication, that the gospel of the Lord Jesus may this day have free course and be glorified. May our Saviour's kingdom make daily accessions, and may these include all who are near and dear to us by the ties of earthly relationship, and all our absent friends. Perfect that which concerneth us, and accept of us graciously, and answer all our supplications exceeding abundantly, above all which we can ask or think, for Jesus Christ's sake, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be everlasting glory, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—JOHN XVIII. 25-40.

O LORD, we are poor, guilty transgressors, who have no way of access to thy throne of grace but the way of thine own appointment, through the Lord Jesus Christ. We bless and glorify thee for him, thine unspeakable gift. O may we be humbled in remembering the manifold sins of the past day, and our constant liability to fall under the power of temptation. Help us, we pray thee, to examine ourselves, lest in condemning others we overlook our own guilt. Let thy Holy Spirit lead us constantly to look to our own hearts. We would be low at the sight of them, and while humbled under a sense of our vileness, would glorify thee that the Lord Jesus became surety for poor sinners who had no atonement, and that he offered himself, without spot, in our room and stead. O Lord, we are verily guilty in that we do not feel more heartily, and deplore more sincerely, all the indignities which were cast on thy dear Son, when he stood in the breach to turn away thy wrath from us. May the Lord Jesus establish his throne in our hearts, and look on us with that eye of compassion which melted the heart of Peter, hardened as it was by his manifold denials. Then shall we indeed be contrite, and hate our sins with a perfect hatred. O forbid that we should, with Pilate, refuse to hear the truth, or with the Jews, prefer Barabbas to our Lord. Help us to choose Jesus, and cleave to him, fearless of the reproach and scorn of a godless world. Follow with thy blessing the efforts of thy servants this day to spread thy truth. Establish in our hearts, and in our household, and in our land, and throughout the world, the holy kingdom of the Lord Jesus. O hasten its complete triumph, and bring the day speedily when the seed of Abraham shall look on him whom they despised for a murderer, and turn and weep bitterly for their sin. Watch over us this night, raise us up in the morning of a new day for thy service, and hear us graciously, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XVII.

O LORD, thou art God, and besides thee there is none else. Thou createst, thou sustainest, thou directest all things. None can control thy power, or question thy wisdom. Thou dost according to thine own will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. None can stay thy hand from working, or say unto thee, What doest thou? We rejoice to know that thou who art revealed to us as the greatest and wisest of beings, art at the same time made known to us, and experienced by us, as the kindest and the best. For which of us now before thee hast thou not loaded with thy

benefits; giving us so many enjoyments and comforts which appertain unto this life; and giving us so many cheering hopes and promises of the life which is to come? Which of us has not been the peculiar object of thy fatherly kindness and care? Sleeping and waking, in prosperity and in adversity, in health and in sickness, thine eye has been upon us. Thou hast been our refuge and our strength, a very present help in every time of need. Thy ways of dealing towards us are, indeed, in many instances, complicated and incomprehensible. We know not the mysterious operations of thy hand,—for here we see thee giving, there taking away,—here bowing down, there raising up,—here bringing down to the grave, there restoring back to life. But though we cannot fathom the deep purpose of thy will, we desire, with all humbleness of mind, to submit to the dispensations of thy adorable providence; assured that all things are wisely and well ordered, and that thou art making all things to work together for the good of them who love thee. O Lord, while we would desire to praise thee for thy temporal mercies, and to acquiesce in all the arrangements of thy providence, we would wish, if possible, a deeper gratitude to praise thee for the rich provision thou hast made for our spiritual wants. And we would humbly and heartily repose our confidence in the purposes and plans of thy grace for our salvation. We would look to him whom thou hast set forth in the gospel as the propitiation for sin. We would believe that there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved. We would receive him in all his holy offices, to instruct, and to save, and to sanctify; and we would rest in the freeness, the fulness, the all-sufficiency of his redemption. We pray thee to bestow upon us more and more of this confiding spirit; to fill us with the knowledge of thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; to enable us day by day to live by the faith, and hope, and obedience of the gospel, and to keep us by thy almighty power through faith unto salvation. We give thee thanks for the rest and repose of the night. We laid ourselves down and slept, and we have awaked, for thou hast sustained us. We would commend ourselves to thy guardian care through the day. Wherever we are, or in whatever engaged, may we have respect unto thee. Help us to discharge our duties faithfully and conscientiously. Save us from the temptations which are everywhere around us. Save us from the deceitfulness of our own sinful hearts. Guide us ever by thy counsel. Hold up our goings in thy paths, and let thy mercy ever be upon us, according as we hope in thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—JOHN XIX. 1-19.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, we come this evening to thy throne of grace. We would bow down before thee, and give to thee the homage which is due from creatures to their Creator, Preserver,

and Redeemer. We are conscious that our praises and our prayers are altogether unworthy of thy regard. But we would worship thee through the one Mediator betwixt thee and us, and for Christ's sake we would plead for favor and acceptance. Adored be thy name, O God, for thine unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ, and for all the riches of thy grace bestowed upon us through him. We ascribe it to thy great and undeserved love to us sinners, that when we had ruined ourselves, when we were under thy curse, and were unable to deliver our own souls, thou didst interpose on our behalf. Thou didst say, Save from going down to the pit, for I have found a ransom. We rejoice to know that the ransom paid was all-sufficient, that the sacrifice offered was all-efficacious for us and for our salvation. Lord, help us ever to bear in mind the marvellous price which our redemption cost, in the humiliation, and sufferings, and death of thy Son from heaven. When we read, as we have this night been reading, how he bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, how he endured the cross and despised the shame, O may we feel our souls constrained by a sense of his love. May we feel what a debt of gratitude we owe to him for his great grace to us. To this once crucified, but now exalted Redeemer, we desire to look by faith. O that, believing on him, we may have life through his name, and out of his fulness receive the wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption, of which we all stand in need. Stablish, strengthen, settle us in his faith. Help us to trust in him as our Saviour, to learn of him as our teacher, to follow him as our guide, to copy after him as our example, to rejoice in him as our all in all. We have to thank thee for thy goodness to us throughout this day. Thou hast brought us in health and safety to its close. Take us under thy good care during the night. Shepherd of Israel! watch over us. Suffer no plague to come near our dwelling. If it please thee to spare us to see the morning light, may we still be with thee, the partakers of thy goodness and mercy, and strengthened and prepared for doing and bearing thy will. All we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XVIII.

WE desire, O Lord, with all humility to draw near unto thee, and to worship thee who art the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only living and true God. The gods of the heathen are dumb idols, the work of men's hands; utterly unworthy are they of the regard of thy rational creatures, to whom thou hast never left thyself without a witness; seeing that thy eternal power and Godhead are manifested in the works and operations of thy hands. We bless thee for the clearer revelation thou hast given us of thyself in thy Son from heaven, declared to be the brightness of thy glory, the express image of thy person. Now indeed we know whom we worship and serve, the great God of heaven and of earth, the God and Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ, a heavenly Father reconciled to us through him. But, Lord, though we know thee, who thou art, and what thou hast done and art doing for us, we confess that we have not walked as the children of light and of privilege. How must we confess that in the enjoyment of thy gifts we have forgotten thee the giver; that we have been more disposed to take the credit of it all to ourselves, or to refer it to creature help and creature power, rather than give the glory and the praise to thee, by whose permission alone we live, by whose grace it is we are what we are. And not only, O God, have we proved ungrateful to thee; we have rejected thy authority, we have resisted thy will, we have violated thy laws, we have not walked in thy statutes, nor kept thy judgments. We have done despite to the Spirit of thy grace. When in thy mercy thou hast called we have not obeyed. When thou hast warned us we have not heeded thee. When thou hast remonstrated and threatened we have been unmoved. O deal not with us according to our deservings. Remember us in mercy. Look not upon us as we are in ourselves. Look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. Extend to us, through him, the pardon of all our sins; and give us, through his justifying righteousness, admittance into thy presence and the enjoyment of thy favor. Grant us grace, O God, to hate and to crucify our sins, which we now confess, and for which we implore thy forgiveness. Too long have we followed the devices of our own sinful hearts; we desire henceforth to run in the way of thy commandments. We would devote ourselves unreservedly to thy service. We would make thy will our will, and seek to regulate our thoughts, and our words, and our actions, by the principles of thy pure and holy word. Lord, help us; deny us not thy grace; withhold not from us thy Holy Spirit; and lead thou us in the way everlasting. We are, by thy merciful providence, brought to the light of another day. We give thee thanks for the continued health, and peace, and comforts we are permitted to enjoy. We would go forward to the business and the trials of life, trusting in thee. Help us to be redeeming the time, and to be walking before thee in circumspection and holy fear, and to be living mindful of death, and judgment, and eternity. Hear, O Lord, these our humble prayers, and when thou hearest forgive, accept, and bless us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—JOHN XIX. 20-42.

O God, let thy blessing follow the reading of thy holy word. Give us to know, and to appreciate more and more, the love wherewith Christ has loved us sinners. We see it to have been a love stronger than death, a love which many waters could not quench. We see that not all the enmity of men and devils, not all the agonies of crucifixion, not all the hidings of thy face, could divert him from his purpose of finishing the work for which he had

come into the world. Thanks be to thee, O holy Jesus! who despisedst nor abhorredst our misery; who didst put thyself in our room and stead, to be wounded for our transgressions, to be bruised for our iniquities, and that we through thy stripes might be healed. We praise thee that thou didst finish transgression, and make an end of sin; that thou didst make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in an everlasting righteousness. We look to thee dying on the cross of Calvary, and we see a sacrifice made there, worthy of heaven to accept. We look to thy grave, and seeing thee lying there, we mourn over the doom and the curse of sin. We look to thy resurrection, and we rejoice in the conquest of death, and in the hopes of glory, honor, and immortality, in the everlasting habitations. We look up to the heavens, where thou art an exalted Prince and Saviour, and we stay ourselves on thee, our unwearied advocate and friend. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! make all grace abound to us through him. O let not Christ have come and suffered and died in vain for us; let him see in us of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. Give us to be washed, and justified, and sanctified, in his name, and by the Spirit of thee our God. May we be his now, and his forever; numbered now among his people, and sealed to the day of final redemption. Extend the limits of the Redeemer's kingdom. Let the joyful sound of his gospel be heard in every land, and by many a heart may it be felt to be the wisdom of God, and the power of God unto salvation. Especially in this, our native country, in every neighborhood, and in every family, may the pure and undefiled religion of Christ prosper and prevail. Everywhere may the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, and may truth and righteousness be established amongst us. Prosper the labors of those who minister among us in holy things; may they not spend their strength for naught, and may we be a willing people in the day of thy power. We commend to thee our kindred and friends; encompass them with thy favor, as with a shield, and bless them with the joys of thy salvation. Look in mercy on the sick, the sorrowful, and the dying; accommodate the supplies of thy providence, and grace, and Spirit, to their varied necessities. May they know thee and rest in thee as their God and portion. Thou hast brought us in safety to the close of another day, and of another week, and much cause have we to praise thee for thy continuing goodness. Solemnize our minds in the prospect of the approaching sabbath. If it please thee to spare us to see it, may we enjoy it as a day of rest, and of spiritual refreshment. May we be enabled to engage in its duties in a spiritual frame of mind, and to serve thee aright, with acceptableness and holy fear. All we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

Twenty-Third Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXII.

LORD, let thy kingdom come! Take unto thee thy power, O God of Zion! Reign over us. Make us willing and glad to abide under thy benignant sway. Let the wondrous discoveries of thy gospel—its revelations of thy everlasting love, of the riches of redeeming grace, and of the efficacy of the blood of the cross, subdue our souls, and dispose us to yield a grateful obedience to thy law. We acknowledge that other lords besides thee have had dominion over us. We owed thee an affection and an obedience which we did not pay. Thou didst speak, thou didst command, thou didst threaten, thou didst invite, thou didst entreat; but we would not hearken unto thy voice. All the day long didst thou stretch out thy hands to us; but we were a gainsaying and a rebellious people. We wonder, O Lord, at the goodness which surrounds us, and at the long-suffering of which we are the monuments. But thy ways are not as our ways; neither are thy thoughts like our thoughts. Wherefore, we beseech thee, to pardon our iniquity, and to blot out our sin. And grant thou that we may not rebel any more. Take away our hearts of unbelief and pride, and give us hearts that are broken and contrite. Send thy Spirit to convince us of our past disaffection, and to make us ashamed on account of it. May he shed abroad within us the love of thy service, and teach us to prize the blessings of thy government, and the privileges of the children of thy kingdom. And, in repairing this day to thy sanctuary, may He, the Comforter, excite us to an alacrity, and fill us with a joy, arising from true and loyal dispositions to thee, as our King and our God. May it this day be our happiness to receive of the bounty, to partake of the royal munificence of the church's glorious Head. O let us taste and see that the Lord is gracious. Speedily let thy kingdom everywhere come. We pray that thou wouldst render effectual for its advancement, the proclamation of the gospel tidings by thy servants on this thy day. Bless the labors of those who seek to build the walls of Zion, and to enlarge the Christian territory. Come down upon the scene of Christian toil in this lower world, as rain upon the mown grass, and as showers that water the earth. We rejoice, O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the foretold felicities that are to flow from the reign of thy Son. Blessed be thy name that already they are begun to be experienced, and that thy children are no strangers to peace, even to the peace of reconciliation with thee, by the righteousness of our Lord. We thank thee, that it has been given to any, to feel the converting, and sanctifying, and consoling influences of the Holy Ghost, and that the first drops are falling of that heavenly shower which thou hast promised

shall descend in a plenteous rain even from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. We give thee praise, that the oppressor of souls has already felt the superior might of the Captain of our salvation, and that the sure prospect is before us of the utter and final overthrow of the kingdom of satan. Enable us more and more to rest on thy promises, and to realize the excellence of spiritual blessings. May we be among the number of those who are looking for and hasting unto the day of God, and longing after the new heavens, and the new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Hear our prayer, O God, for the sake of Jesus thy Son. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM LXXIII.

O LORD, truly thou art good to Israel. Lord! thou art the God that doeth wonders. Thou hast built up thy mercy forever! Thou sentest not thy Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Thy commission did not bid him execute vengeance, but appointed him to accomplish salvation. Thou didst subject him for our sakes to poverty, sorrow, and shame. It pleased thee to bruise him, and to put him to grief. On him thou didst lay the iniquity of us all. It was thy will, that he the just should die for us, the unjust, in order to bring us unto God. We thank thee for the promise of the outpouring of the Spirit. We rejoice in the fulfilment of that promise. Blessed be thy name that souls are quickened; that captives of satan are made to know the joyful sound, and that some of those who sit in darkness, are made to see the great light of the gospel. We adore, O Lord, that wonderful work of thy Spirit, whereby they who were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, are made fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and they who were not a people, are become the people of God. O make us partakers in the privileges of thy true Israel! We are dark: do thou enlighten us. We are powerless: do thou strengthen us with might by thy Spirit in the inner man. We are foolish: make us wise unto salvation. We are prone to unbelief: O make the vital grace of faith to abound in us. We are carnal, proud, unholy: make us spiritual, humble, contrite—haters of sin, lovers of righteousness, and followers of that holiness without which none shall see the Lord. We pray, O Lord, that we may be enabled to glorify thee in every circumstance of our life, and under every dispensation of thy providence. When affliction comes, may we be prepared to meet it. Let no troubles that ever befall us, create in our minds a doubt of thy goodness. May we be of that privileged number, to whom all things work together for good; and whom neither tribulation, nor distress, nor persecution, nor famine, nor nakedness, nor peril, nor sword; neither death, nor life, things present, nor things to come; neither height, nor depth, nor any other

creature, shall be able to separate from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord! Forgive, O our God, the imperfection and sin with which our religious services this day are chargeable. Follow, with an effectual blessing, the solemn exercises in which we have been engaged. Let it not be in vain that thy servants have this day confronted and assailed the adversary with the sword of the Spirit. Deep and deadly may the injury prove that has this day been inflicted on the kingdom of satan! Hasten the downfall of Babylon, the destruction of Antichrist! Let the eastern deceiver, deceive men no more! May the worship of idols, and of gods that are no gods, speedily everywhere cease! O send help from above, out of thy sanctuary, to the soldiers of the cross. May the Captain of the Lord's host go forth before them, conquering and to conquer! We pray for our country. Turn the hearts of the people, old and young, high and low, rich and poor, to thyself. May our public sins be forgiven by thee, and forsaken by us; and may our nation be exalted in righteousness. Bless our rulers. Give them to rule wisely and prosperously over us. Endow them with thy saving grace; and may they adorn their eminent station, by exhibiting in it all the excellencies of the Christian character. We now commit ourselves to thee, O thou that keepest Israel! Be gracious unto us. Let our slumbers this night be peaceful and refreshing! and in the morning may we awake to celebrate thy praises, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XVIII.

O LORD, thou art God alone. Thou art the Creator of all, the preserver of all, the Lord of all. From all other gods we will turn away, because they are no gods. We will worship the Lord our God, and him only will we serve. O let us have grace to keep thy commandments! Thou hast commanded us to believe on thy Son. Enable us to obey: may we joyfully surrender to him our hearts, and humbly and gratefully rely on his righteousness. Thou hast commanded us to desist from the vain attempts to serve two masters. Give us, therefore, fortitude to choose; and give us wisdom to choose aright. Thou hast commanded us to yield our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto thee, which is our reasonable service. May we, therefore, yield our members as the instruments of righteousness unto God. Thou hast said, Be ye holy, for I am holy. O then, furnish us with the principles and motives from which holiness shall flow: give us thy sanctifying grace. We remember it is written, that without Christ we can do nothing. Therefore, O Lord, we cry unto thee to enable us to abide in Christ; so that, we being in him, he may be in us, and our fruit may abound to thy praise. From the person and the character, the life and the death, of Jesus, may we have faith to draw such strength and nourishment, that our fruit shall abound more and more. Send down

upon us the dews of thy divine influences; and give us the Holy Ghost. We pray for a speedy end to idol worship everywhere. How long, O Lord, shall darkness so extensively prevail, and vast multitudes of the children of men remain in the region of the shadow of death! When wilt thou cause the reign of superstition to cease, and forever ruin the credit of all false gods! Have mercy, we beseech thee, upon the millions that are perishing in our own and other lands. We ask thee not for miracles, such as thou wroughtest of old by thy servant Elijah; but we ask thee for things still more highly to be prized,—even, O our God, the effectual influences of thy grace. Grant that of these there may be a far more copious dispensation than has hitherto been enjoyed. Where already the gospel is preached, let quickening power continually accompany it. May Christians in name, become Christians indeed. And instead of temporary impressions on the understanding, may the truth, as it is in Jesus, make saving impressions on the heart. Where, as yet, the joyful sound has not been heard, O soon let thy heralds make their appearance, and proclaim the glad tidings to all. And go thou with them, O Lord. When they speak to the deaf, do thou cause the deaf to hear. When they cry amid the valley of the dead, do thou cause the dead men to live. Let not thy word and thy Spirit be separated. Where the word is preached there may the Spirit operate. Let the word be borne over all the earth; over all the earth let the Spirit pursue his renewing and sanctifying processes, and perform his enlightening, and comforting, and saving work. Take thou possession of every land, and of every heart, for thyself; that no land and no heart may remain to be possessed by idols. We seek thy protection and aid, O our Father, in all that is before us. Let not our intercourse with the world make us forgetful of thee. In attending to our secular affairs, may our conduct be guided by the directions of thy law, and may we have an eye to thy glory. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us: yea, the work of our hands, establish thou it. And now, O Lord, forgive us our sins, and hear thou our morning supplications, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—JOHN XX.

O LORD, thou hast done marvellous things: thy right hand and thy holy arm have gotten thee the victory. Thou didst not, O our Father, leave the soul of thy Messiah in hell, neither didst thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Vain was all the power of death,—impotent all the rage of satan; they could not keep our Lord a prisoner in the tomb. We thank thee for that gospel which calls upon us to believe and trust in a Saviour who once was dead,—dead for sin; and who, therefore, expiated its guilt, satisfied the

law, and magnified thy justice at the cost of his inestimable blood. And we also thank thee that the Saviour whom the gospel presents to us is not dead now; that, though he was truly dead, he is now as truly alive; that he lives a Priest to intercede for us, a Prophet to teach us, a King to sway the sceptre of a benign and happy reign over us. Obtaining reconciliation to thee by the death of thy Son, O grant that we may be completely and finally saved by his life. We remember that he said unto his disciples, Because I live, ye shall live also. We covet for ourselves the fulfilment of this gracious promise. May we be the living people of a living Saviour. O that our souls may live before thee. Grant, O Lord, that through the power of Christ's Spirit, we may not be among the number of them whom spiritual death retains in the grave of trespasses and sins. Quicken and revive us, we beseech thee. May we have life by reason of Christ living in us. Let us be vitally united to Christ, and so we shall be planted together in the likeness of his death, and also in the likeness of his resurrection; and, as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also shall be made to walk in newness of life. Realizing by faith our union with Christ, may we be enabled to yield ourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and our members as instruments of righteousness unto God. Make us willing and faithful in thy service; and let us have grace to pay an unconstrained obedience to thy law. Let thy people everywhere become more sensible of the Redeemer's excellence and attractions. And O may the eyes of a blinded world be opened, that men may see what perfections they are despising, on what winning majesty and adorable goodness they are turning their backs, when they reject the approaches of Jesus. We implore a blessing, O Lord, upon our beloved native land. Deal not with us as we have sinned, neither reward us according to our iniquities. Be gracious to our rulers. Bless the Reformed churches. May the work of their reformation continue to go forward. Bless thou the church to which we belong—her courts, her pastors, her flocks. May her efforts to promulgate the gospel, and to convey the saving knowledge of Jesus to the perishing multitudes, both at home and abroad, be crowned with signal success. And now, O our God, what wait we for? As thou hast mercifully kept us this day, so do thou guard us in the watches of the night. And remember not against us any of our innumerable transgressions, but receive us graciously, and love us freely; for the sake of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XIX.

O LORD, let thy mercy be on us, as we do hope and trust in thee. We have nothing of our own to recommend us to thy favor, but we come to thee in the name of him whom thou hearest always, and for whose righteousness' sake thou art well pleased with all them

that truly desire to seek and serve thee. We know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no God beside thee, and that there is no salvation in any other. Teach us thy way, and lead us in it. Deliver us from the ignorance, the impenitence, the enmity, and the obduracy of an unbelieving heart. Convince us of our demerit and danger as sinners, and determine us to count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ, that we may win Christ, and be found in him. Open the eyes of our understanding, that we may see the wonders of thy law, and enlarge our hearts that we may run in the way of thy commandments. May Christ be formed in us, that we may abide in him, and bring forth much fruit. Let us never be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, nor indifferent to his cause. Make us willing both to spend and be spent in his service and for his sake. Fortify us against the fear of man, which bringeth a snare, and enable us to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. Keep us back from all presumptuous sin, and permit us neither to despise thy chastening, nor to faint under thy rebuke. May we know Christ in the fellowship of his sufferings, and choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. We thank thee, O Lord, for the light, and liberty, and grace of the gospel dispensation. Blessed are our eyes for they see, and our ears for they hear. May the still small voice of mercy which speaks to us, speedily convey its glad tidings of great joy to all people. Be mindful of thy covenant of promise, and give to thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. Thou hast never left thyself without a witness, and we rejoice to believe that even in this present time of darkness and degeneracy there is still a remnant according to the election of grace. Pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh, and add to thy church daily many such as shall be saved. We offer unto thee our sacrifice of praise for the mercies of the past night, and for the comforts and prospects of another morning. Keep us in thy fear all the day long. Preserve on our minds a constant and commanding sense of thy presence, so that we may both act and endure as seeing him who is invisible. May we walk humbly with God, and circumspectly before men, in all things adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour, by a conversation such as becometh the gospel. Prepare us for every duty and trial. Feed us with food convenient, and make thy grace sufficient for us. Perfect that which concerns us, and grant that the meditations of our heart, and the words of our mouth may find acceptance in thy sight, through Christ, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—JOHN XXI.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the former of our bodies, and the Father of our spirits; the fountain of our mercies, and the foundation of our hopes. Early were we cast on thy care, and thou hast

cared for us. Thou didst open thine hand and we were filled with good. In danger thou hast been our defence; in trouble thou hast been our support and consolation; thou hast delivered our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. Bless the Lord, then, O our souls, and all that is within us be stirred up to bless and magnify his holy name. O Lord, we had destroyed ourselves, but in thee is our help. When no other eye pitied, and no other hand could help, thine eye pitied us, and thine almighty arm wrought out salvation for us. He that is mighty hath done great things for us. Blessed be he who came in the name of the Lord to save us. We rejoice that he who was delivered for our offences was raised again for our justification, and that by many infallible proofs he showed himself alive to his disciples, the chosen witnesses of his resurrection. We believe in the testimony which thou didst give by them concerning Christ, that he not only died for our sins, according to the scriptures, but rose again the first-fruits of them that sleep. May we be planted together in the likeness of his death, that we may be also in the likeness of his resurrection. May it appear that we have been quickened together with Christ, by our seeking those things which are above, where he sitteth at the right hand of God, and by our striving if by any means we may attain unto the resurrection of the dead. We desire, O Lord, that Christ may dwell in our hearts, and that he may be precious to us as he is to them that believe. May the love of Christ be not only in us, but may it constrain us so to feel and act that, appealing to the Searcher of hearts, we may be enabled to say, Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee. Animated by the love of Christ, may we find his service to be perfect freedom, and know from experience that his yoke is easy and his burden light. Rooted and grounded in love, may we hold fast the profession of our faith and the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end, and never be moved away from the hope of the gospel, nor be of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them who believe to the saving of their souls. O Lord, teach us thy statutes, and give us a competent share of that knowledge which maketh wise unto salvation. Suffer us not to employ, on the characters and concerns of others, that attention which is due to our own; nor let us ever forget that one thing is needful, and that it will profit us nothing to have gained the whole world if we lose our own souls. We offer our tribute of thanksgiving for the mercies of the day that has now come to a close. Pardon the sin we may have contracted, and grant us that repentance which is unto salvation. We commit ourselves to thy care and keeping during this night, and pray that we may obtain quiet and refreshing rest. Prepare us for what remains of our day and duty, and for the night of death in which no man can work. Bless our friends with thy favor, and our enemies with thy forgiveness. May thy grace be on all that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and may thy way be soon known on the earth, and thy saving health among all nations. Graciously hear the voice of our petitions, and unto thy name, through Christ, be glory now and forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XXI.

O LORD, thou madest all things by thy power and for thy glory. The earth is thine, with the fulness thereof: thine are all the creatures that live upon it, they all wait on thee. Lord, thou preservest man and beast. How precious is thy grace! Thine is the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the raiment we put on. Make us to feel our dependence on thy care, and our obligations to thy bounty. May the gifts of thy providence, of which we partake every moment, raise our thoughts to thee, from whom all blessings flow; and may our preserved lives be cheerfully spent in thy service, and zealously consecrated to thy praise. Teach us contentment, that we may know how to be abased and how to abound. Convince us that we deserve nothing at thy hand but indignation and wrath, as the punishment of our sin, and that we are not worthy even of the least of all thy mercies. Dispose us to receive with gratitude, to enjoy with moderation, and to improve with diligence, our allotted share of worldly good. Let us not seek great things for ourselves, but may we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, in the belief that all other things necessary will then be added unto us. Suffer us not to murmur under our own trials and disappointments, nor to envy the prosperity, or covet the possessions of others. Enable us to cast all our cares upon him who careth for us, and in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make our requests known unto God. We come to thee as the God of all grace, who hast promised to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask it. O satisfy us early with thy mercy. Take away the stony heart out of our flesh, and renew within us a right spirit. May he who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts, to give us the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ; and may the light which is in us, be made to shine forth before men, so that others, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father which is in heaven. We bless thee, O Lord, for the care with which thou hast watched over and preserved us during the past night, and for the privilege which thou hast afforded us of entering on the duties and enjoyments of another day. Prepare us for our work and our warfare: keep us from the evil that is in the world. May we act up to our principles, and hold fast our profession, and walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. Guide us by thy counsel, sustain us by thy providence, strengthen with might by thy Spirit in the inner man, and bless us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, so that we may serve thee acceptably, and our generation usefully, according to thy will; and be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light, through Christ our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ACTS I.

O GOD, thou art exalted far above all blessing and praise. Thou dwellest in the high and holy place. Yet thou humblest thyself to behold the things that are under the sun; thou dwellest with him that is of an humble and contrite heart, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite one. In thy sight, O Lord, we are less than nothing and vanity. In us dwelleth no good thing. Our own hearts condemn us, and thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. What are we, O Lord, and what is our Father's house, that thou hast brought us hitherto? We admire and extol the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he who was rich for our sakes became poor, that we, through his poverty, might become rich. We thank thee, that having finished his work on earth, he took possession of his reward in heaven: and that he now sits on the right hand of the Majesty on high, and ever liveth to plead the cause, and present the prayers of his people, and to dispense all needful supplies of grace, to help them in every time of need. Enable us, O Lord, to follow Christ, whither he has ascended, by setting our affections on things above, and by having our conversation in heaven, whence we look for the Saviour. As strangers and pilgrims on the earth, may we spend the time of our sojourning here in fear; using the world, as not abusing it, and looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God our Saviour, who shall change these vile bodies, and fashion them like unto his own glorious body. Having this hope in him, may we purify ourselves even as he is pure. May we give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, by adding to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity; may these things not only be in us, but abound in us, so that we may be neither barren nor unfruitful in the work of the Lord. O Lord, remember thy covenant of promise, and bring in thine ancient people the Jews, with the fulness of the Gentiles. May the Sun of righteousness soon arise, and shine on all the kingdoms of this world, causing them to become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ. Let wickedness come to a speedy and final end. May righteousness everywhere flow down the streets as a stream, and judgment as a mighty river. We offer our humble ascriptions of gratitude for thy mercy and goodness during the past day. Guard us from danger during the silent watches of the night, and give us the sleep of thy beloved. Put us, and keep us in a state of readiness for the duties of life, for the event of death, and for the joys of immortality. Fill us with the Spirit of thy grace, and grant us acceptance in our persons and services, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—1 KINGS XXII.

MOST holy and merciful God, we lift our hearts to thee this morning in the name of our blessed Mediator; and we pray that thou wouldst enable us, by thy Spirit, ever to worship thee with deep reverence of soul, and a humble confidence in thy love. Thou alone art God, the fountain of all good, and beside thee there is no Saviour. We praise thee as the Maker, and the Sovereign, and disposer of all things. Thy throne is in the heavens, and judgment and righteousness are ever its habitation; and thy face is set against all who do evil, to cut off their remembrance from the earth. But we rejoice, O Lord, to know that thou art compassionate, as well as holy, and while there is no safety to sinners under thy righteous providence, that all thy ways are mercy and peace to such as keep thy covenant, and thy testimonies, to do them. We are utterly unworthy, O Lord, to approach thee, or take thy name into our lips, for we were born in sin, and are the natural heirs of wrath; we cannot reckon the multitude of our actual transgressions, for in all things we come short of thy glory. Our hopes of acceptance are entirely in thy mercy, and we adore thee for the blessed Gospel of thy well-beloved Son, in which we are assured that through the merits of his sacrifice, thou canst be both just and merciful in thy dealings with us sinners who believe in his name. O may the blood of his perfect and accepted atonement, ever speak peace to our consciences, and dispel from our hearts all apprehensions of thy wrath, and may we ever be able to joy in thee through Jesus Christ, who has reconciled and bought us. Grant, we beseech thee, that we may ever feel the obligations and constraining influences of thine infinite love and grace, and ever live in obedience to them. O Lord, we have everything to ask from thee, that we may serve thee aright, or ever hope to fulfil thy holy and good commandments. We beseech thee to grant us thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to repent truly of all our sins, and to serve thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days. We would ever bear in mind that we live in a world lying in wickedness. May we have grace to watch and pray that we never enter into temptation, and may be strengthened to shun every scene and every alliance that would lead us into sin. O Lord, we are only safe when under thy protection. Do thou preserve us from evil, and make thy grace sufficient for us, that we may be faithful in every duty, and patient under every trial. May our faith in thy love and promises, and presence, never fail us amid all the trials that may encompass us. May we cleave to thee, and over all the evils that may surround us may we be more than conquerors through him that loved us. O Lord, we bless thee for having preserved us over another night, and for thy goodness this morning; give us this day our daily bread; fit us for all our duties, and in all we think or do may we have an aim to thy approbation and glory. We pray, O Lord, for all the families of mankind. Have mercy on the unenlightened heathen, and give

success to the means using to instruct and convert them. May Jesus be given for salvation to the ends of the earth. May all our friends and benefactors be partakers of thy grace. Hear and save all in trouble. Let us not forget that the day of life is short, and that the best preparation for its trials and close is to spend the hours of health and season of activity in thy service. Hear, O Lord, and accept of us and our worship, for the sake of Jesus, and to thy name be all praise, now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—ACTS II.

FATHER of mercies, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we beseech thee to pour on us thy Holy Spirit, that we may know thee savingly, and glorify thee in soul and body, which are thine. We lament our inability to serve thee, as thou hast a right to require of us, and thy daily benefits oblige us to do. We confess and would deplore that we are naturally alienated from thee in heart and mind, and dead in sin. We neither see thee in thy works nor own thee in thy providence as we ought, and while thou speakest to us by thy Son, we are too oft deaf to the voice that calls us to our God, and to virtue and happiness. Have compassion on us, most gracious God; see Jesus, our shield, look on us in the face of thine Anointed, and for his sake forgive all our iniquities; restore our souls, and love us freely. Convince us, we beseech thee, of the evil of our manifold sins, and our native weakness and corruption, and may we be in the daily exercise of a sincere repentance and lively faith on the God of our salvation. We would stir up all that is within us to bless thy name for what thou hast done to save us. We adore thee for the sure grounds on which thou callest us to rest our faith, and for the pledges thou hast given that thou wilt fulfil to all who believe the great and precious promises of thy holy word. We rejoice to know that thou hast exalted to thy right hand, a prince and Saviour, who is God in our nature, who knows our infirmities and temptations, and is ever ready to succor us in need, and save to the uttermost all who come to thee in his name. May we joyfully receive and ever rest on him for our salvation, and may he be formed in our hearts the hope of glory. Forbid, O Lord, we should be satisfied with a faith that doth not sanctify our hearts. May our faith destroy all pride, and selfishness, and worldliness in our souls, and work in us love, and humility, and mercy, and virtue, and heavy-mindedness, and peace. May we study to be living epistles of the gospel, read of all men. May we strive to abound in the fruits of thy Spirit. Forbid that by unbelief or sin we should ever grieve him, or quench his holy influences. May we ever cherish and obey his teachings, and may we have his witness that we are thy children, and the heirs of immortality. We adore thee for thy care over us, and the many mercies we have this day enjoyed. Blot

out the sins we have committed against thee, and all our shortcomings; enable us in our after life, if thou art pleased to spare us, to live more to thy glory. May thy word have free course and be glorified. Hasten the time when the reign of truth, and love, and righteousness shall be universal on earth. Have mercy on the poor and afflicted, and on the bereaved and the dying. Keep us ever in mind that our days and nights are numbered; prepare us for their end. We commit ourselves to thy protection through the night, and whether it be thy will to call us hence ere another morning dawns, or raise us to see its light, may we be prepared for all the ordinations of thy merciful and righteous providence. Accept of our services, and answer our prayers, for the sake of Jesus, and to thy name be all glory, now and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS I.

O THOU who art the unseen, but omnipotent Creator, and disposer of all things, hear our prayers this morning, and bless us, we beseech thee, for the sake of thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour. Thou art our God, and we will ever seek and praise thee. There is no God but thee. The objects worshipped by blinded heathens are the works of their own hands, or the creatures of delusion, but thou art the true and living God, thou art an everlasting king. Who, O Lord, would not fear thy great name? Thou art glorious in holiness, ever doing wonders. We rejoice, O Lord, to know, that although thine arm be mighty to destroy, it is also mighty to save. Blessed are they who love and trust thee. Thy favor is life. Thou art as a wall of fire around thy servants in times of trouble; a thousand shall fall at their sides, and ten thousand at their right hand; but it shall not come nigh unto them, for they have the Lord for their defence, and the Most High for their habitation. Most gracious God, we confess and lament that we have never been affected as we ought, by thy majesty and holiness, or thy goodness and mercy. We have never sought nor trusted, nor loved and served thee, as thou hast a right to expect we always should have done. We have too much loved and gone after idols. When in health, we have sought our happiness in the broken and empty cisterns of this world; and when in sickness or trouble, we have sought deliverance, and placed our dependence more on means, and creature helps and comforters, than on thee, the giver and restorer of life, the source of all consolation. We have forgotten the hand that has fed us, and lightly esteemed the rock of our salvation. We confess, O Lord, that it is because of thine infinite forbearance and compassion we have not been consumed by the fire of thy righteous judgments; and we bless thee for thy long-suffering and mercy. Humble us, we beseech thee, under a deep sense of our ungodliness and ingratitude; and may thy patience lead us to repentance. And we adore

thee for that proof of thine infinite love thou hast given us, in the gift of thine eternal Son, to die for us and save us from all our iniquities. May we feel our absolute need of his salvation; and by a true and living faith be made partakers of it. Grant that an experience of thy redeeming mercy, may ever constrain us to love and serve thee. Be thou ever our covenant God, and may we be unto thee a faithful and devoted people. O Lord, we beseech thee, to renew our hearts more and more. May thy holy Spirit keep our ever-errring affections from departing from thee, and lead us ever to seek our happiness in doing thy will, and promoting thy glory. Do thou be our strength in the hour of temptation, and our refuge in times of trouble. Never leave us, we entreat thee, and keep us by thy power and grace to the day of salvation. May the goodness that has blessed us during the night watches, follow us through this day. Supply our wants, teach us our duties, and preserve us from all evil. Bless our kindred and friends, look in pity on all under trial, and comfort all who mourn. Hasten the time when the reign of idolatry and wickedness in heathen lands, and the prevalence of error and corruption in parts where thy gospel has been preached, shall be brought to an end. May the kingdom of grace be advanced, and the kingdom of glory hastened. And grant, O Lord, that we may so live, that at last we may be partakers of its eternal joys. And unto thy name be all power, and honor, and glory forever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—ACTS III.

GREAT and manifold are thy works, Lord God Almighty, in wisdom and goodness thou hast made them all. We rejoice, O Lord, to know that although all creation is thine, and eternity and its praises thy dwelling-place, thou humblest thyself to care for us thy sinful children, and to provide for our happiness. Thou didst make us at first upright, but we feel that we are transgressors, and that thy holy image has been defaced from our souls. Our understandings are blind to what is good, our wills averse to it, and our whole hearts prone to what is evil. We are unable, O Lord, of ourselves to do anything that is not sinful. Justly, O Lord, mightest thou have cast us off, and shut thine ears against our prayers, and made us everlasting monuments of thy righteous judgments. But forever blessed be thy name that thou didst pity us, in our poor, and helpless, and lost condition, and didst so love us as to give thy beloved Son, that we might not perish but have everlasting life. O the height and depth, the breadth and length of thy love to us in Christ Jesus: it passeth knowledge. Forbid, most merciful God, that Jesus should be sent to us in vain, and that his gospel should be to us the savor of death. Let us not be guilty of neglecting this great salvation. May the miracles of power and mercy by which he proved he came from thee, confirm our faith and establish our

hearts in his blessed word. And grant, O Lord, that we may be able, from our experience of its efficacy, to testify that the gospel is worthy of all acceptance. May we be made, by thy Holy Spirit, to feel more and more its power in quickening and renewing our souls, and filling us with peace and joy. Let us never forget the Lord who has redeemed us. May we ever glory in his name and in his cross, and testify our love, and gratitude, and salvation, by honoring and obeying all his commandments. Teach us, O Lord, that he who begins the good work in us, can alone carry it to perfection: and may we ever wait on Jesus, and live by faith in his wisdom, and righteousness, and grace. O Lord, we would never forget that all means owe their efficacy to thee, nor thy promises of spiritual benefits to all who seek thy mercy. Do thou come down on our souls, O Lord, by the influences of thy heavenly grace, and refresh, and bless, and save us. Enable us, in a patient continuance in well-doing, to go on our way rejoicing, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We bless thee for having brought us in safety to the close of another day. Make us grateful for all the mercies we have this day enjoyed, and let not the sins which, in thought, or word, or deed we have been guilty of, be remembered against us. May thy kingdom come, when all nations shall be blessed in Jesus, and thy glory shall fill the earth. Bless all whom we ought to have on our hearts at thy throne of grace. And do thou, who never sleepest, watch over us during the night season, and if it be thy will, raise us to the enjoyment of thy favor on another morning. All we ask, O Lord, is in the name of Jesus, to whom, with thee and thy blessed Spirit, we ascribe all glory and praise, now and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS II.

O LORD, we adore thee for the wondrous plan of redeeming love which was executed by the mission, the sufferings and death of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank thee that Christ died, and rose, and revived, and that he has now ascended up to the right hand of the majesty on high, to intercede in behalf of those whom he has purchased with his blood. We bless thee that he is preparing mansions for his people, and that when ages close he will come again to receive them to himself, that where he is there they may be also. We delight to think that Christ has triumphed over the grave, and that he has given a glorious earnest that over his redeemed people the second death shall have no power. May we be among the number of Christ's people; washed in his blood, and sanctified by his Spirit. Give us a closer walk with thee. May we be not conformed to the world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and may it be our daily concern to die unto sin and to live unto holiness. Do thou de' ver us from the power, and

the practice, and the guilt of sin, and make us partakers of the divine nature, that when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, we also may appear with him in glory. We bless thee that thou hast always had a church upon the earth; that in the darkest period of the ancient dispensation there were seven thousand who did not bow the knee to Baal, and that there have been some in every age who have not defiled their garments, but have been witnesses for religion and for God. Lord, we entreat of thee to raise up instruments to carry on thy work on the earth. Let a double portion of thy good Spirit rest upon those who minister in holy things at home or abroad, and may the mantle of the holy and good who have departed to be with Christ, rest upon their successors. Lord, we commend unto thee especially this family. Bless every member of it with all needful blessings. We thank thee that thou hast spared us to meet around the family altar; and we would bless thee for the mercies of the past night and of this morning. Go forward with us to the active duties of the day. Keep our bodies from danger and our souls from sin. May we be in thy fear all the day long. Guide us by thy counsel, and afterwards receive us into glory, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ACTS IV.

O LORD, our Father and our God, we would desire, at the close of another day, to prostrate ourselves before the footstool of thy throne, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our once crucified but now exalted Redeemer. Do thou assist us by thy Holy Spirit, and enable us to worship thee in a right and acceptable manner. We desire to bless thee that, by the good hand of our God upon us, we have been brought to the close of another week; and looking back upon the days that are past, we would be humbled on account of our manifold sinfulness, and we would plead for mercy's sake that thou wouldst extend to us pardon, and peace, and eternal life, through the blood of thy Son Jesus Christ. We would remember the mercies of this week, and, in the view of our temporal comforts and our spiritual privileges, we would desire to raise our Ebenezer to thee, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us! O thou that hast kept our souls from death, keep, we beseech thee, our eyes from tears and our feet from falling. Guide our footsteps into the way of peace, place us upon the rock that is higher than we, and enable us to find peace, and rest, and comfort, and joy, where thy justice found satisfaction. Lord, may we rest on nothing short of Christ and his finished work. May we ever bear in mind that Christ is the only foundation of a sinner's hope, and that there is none other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. O may we rest on nothing short of a change of character and of life. May thy Holy Spirit descend to enlighten our understandings, to renew our wills, and to

warm our naturally cold hearts with the love of Christ. May that love constrain us to live not to ourselves but to Christ, who died for us and rose again. May we have union to Christ by faith, and union among each other by love. May we keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace, and may we ever be desirous that grace, and mercy, and peace may rest upon all the Israel of God. Lord, may we be under thy protecting care this night. Do thou, the holy One of Israel, who never slumberest, protect and bless us during the silent watches. Fit us, O God, for the solemn and interesting duties of a coming sabbath, if thou seest meet to spare us. Let this world speedily become one universal temple to Jehovah, and where the sons of men shall learn the anthems of the blessed above. The Lord hasten it in his own time, and let the whole earth be speedily filled with his glory. All we ask is for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.



Twenty-Fourth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXIV.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God! Thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy church and people in every generation. We come before thy throne this morning of thy holy day, in the name of Christ, the living Head of his people, beseeching thee to pardon, to sanctify, and to bless us. We thank thee for the rest of the past night, and that we have been brought together this morning to surround the family altar, in so comfortable circumstances. Lord, we bless thee for the unspeakable privilege of hearing thy holy word read; and our prayer is, that we may be profited by it, and that we may search it more and more, seeing that it can make us wise unto salvation, through faith that is in Christ Jesus. Lord, go forward with us this day to thy house of prayer. May we love the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth. May we joy when it is said unto us, Go ye up to the house of the Lord. May we be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house, and be permitted to drink of the river of thy pleasures. O to see thy power and thy glory, as thou hast manifested them in old time in thy sanctuary! And at the close of all the services of this day, may we be enabled to say, It was good for us to wait upon the Lord—this has been to us none other than the house of God, or the gate of heaven. Lord, hasten the time when the blessings of the Sabbath shall be extended to every land, and when sacrifice and a pure offering shall be presented unto thee from the rising even unto the set.

ting of the sun. We would remember before thee the dark places of the earth, which are full of the habitations of cruelty; and we pray that on them the Sun of righteousness may arise, with healing under his wings. Make bare thy holy arm, O God. Bless their inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up forever. Wherever thy church is suffering affliction, Lord, do thou interpose for its relief. Wherever thy people are in sorrow and distress, Lord, do thou be near to communicate all needful comfort, and strength, and grace. We put up our prayers, O God, for thy cause, in the midst of the congregation to which we belong. Do thou strengthen and support thy servant our pastor, and enable him to come forth in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ, and to speak a word in season to perishing and weary souls. Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years. May we enjoy an outpouring of thy Holy Spirit. May many be inquiring the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward. May backsliders be reclaimed, and let thine own people be cheered, and animated, and comforted, and enabled to go on their way rejoicing. Lord, have mercy upon careless sinners. Turn them from the error of their ways, and bring them to the knowledge and love of the truth. May the Spirit be universally poured out from on high, that the wilderness may become a fruitful field, and that the fruitful field may be counted for a forest. These are our prayers, our Father; do thou hear us, and pardon us, and answer us, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS LXXV. LXXVI.

O LORD, thou art great and greatly to be feared,—thou art good, and greatly to be loved, and to be had in reverence of all that would approach unto thee. Thou art the blessed and the only potentate, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne; mercy and truth continually go before thy face. Thou rulest in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. Thou causest the very wrath of man to praise thee, and the remainder of that wrath thou dost restrain. Lord, may we have just and worthy conceptions of thy character and thy glory; and may we have grace given us to sanctify thee, the Lord God, in our hearts, and to make thee our fear and our dread. Give us thy Spirit at this time, that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth. We thank thee, O God, for our exceeding great and glorious privileges. We thank thee that thou art known in the midst of us and that we enjoy gospel privileges and gospel ordinances. We bless thee that our candlestick is not removed out of its place, but that our eyes still see our teachers, and that we live in these times of light and love, in which many kings, and prophets, and righteous men of old desired to live, but were not so highly favored. Lord, may we prize our privileges; may we im-

prove them aright, and may they be to us the savor of life unto life. We thank thee for the opportunity which we had this day of waiting upon thee in thy public courts, and O let the preaching of the everlasting gospel be accompanied with divine efficacy and saving power. Let the Spirit of God apply the truth to every heart. God forbid that thy ministering servants should have to take up the lamentation of the prophet of old, Who hath believed our report! and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed! But O make bare thy holy arm, and visit us with that mercy and love which thou bearest to thine own people. May we pay our vows to the Most High. May we devote ourselves to thy service, and may we offer up our bodies living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to thee, which is our reasonable service. Prepare us, O Lord, for all that lies before us in time, prepare us for death, judgment and eternity, and may we be received at length unto thy everlasting kingdom and glory. Send forth thy light and thy truth among the nations, and let them acknowledge that thou art he whose name alone is Jehovah, the Most High over all the earth. Bring in thine ancient people the Jews, with all the fulness of the Gentile church. Bless our country, our rulers, and all placed in authority over us; and enable us to lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty. Be the God of this family. Let every member of it be a member of the spiritual body of Jesus Christ; interested in the eternal covenant, washed in the blood of sprinkling, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit of promise. Take us under thy divine care this night. Let no evil come near us, nor plague come nigh our dwelling. Fit us, O God, for the active duties of the week on which we have entered; support us under its trials and difficulties, and with every temptation graciously make a way of escape. We commend ourselves to thee, and to the power of thy grace, who art able to build us up, and to give us an inheritance among all those that are sanctified. Hear us in heaven, thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest, forgive. O grant us an answer in peace, for all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS III.

O GOD, the creator, preserver, and redeemer of the world, thou art entitled to the worship of all thine intelligent creatures. It is thy righteous and inalienable prerogative, to demand and to receive the homage of their adoration and praise. With all our heart, and with all our mind, and with all our strength we are bound to love and serve thee. As the God that made us, thou mayest well call for the devotion of all our faculties to thy service. As the God that has led us and fed us all our life long, thou mayest well claim the continued gratitude of our existence. As the God who didst provide a ransom for us in the sacrifice of thy dear Son, when we had sold ourselves to sin and satan, and when no man could redeem his brother

from destruction, thou mayest well say to us, Ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your bodies and spirits, which are his. We acknowledge, O Lord, that these claims have not been met as they ought to have been; that instead of honoring thee by a ready submission of our minds to thine authority, and a free and full opening of our hearts to the influences of thy love, we have disobeyed that authority, and slighted that love; we have served idols instead of the living God; we have taken counsel of our own hearts, instead of listening to the voice of heavenly truth. Forbid it, O Father of mercies, that we should continue thus to dishonor thee, and degrade ourselves. Convinced that thy glory and our own happiness demand the separation of our hearts from every idol, may we be enabled, by thy gracious Spirit, to yield ourselves as living sacrifices to thee. Our past idolatries and sins remember not against us, for Jesus' sake, and impart to us strength to serve thee aright for the time to come. When thou sayest unto each of us, My son, my daughter, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways, may we be enabled cordially and fully to meet these demands. May we never think of offering thee a divided heart, which is faulty in thy sight, but sincerely, cheerfully, and wholly may we give ourselves unto the Lord. This day, in entering anew upon the active duties of the world, may we be guided by thy counsel, upheld by thy power, and enriched by thy blessing. May the rest and the refreshment afforded to our bodies and our spirits on thy sabbath, make us strong to do thy will through the week. In all things, in the discharge of every secular as well as of every sacred duty, may we be able to acquit ourselves as the true servants of Jehovah; and may no earthly consideration ever move us away from that path of holy obedience which has been plainly set before us. May we be faithful unto death, that we may obtain the crown of life. We bless thee for all the sacred and civil privileges which we possess. Let not our unworthiness provoke thee to take them away. In thy mercy, do thou purify and sustain them for our benefit, and the benefit of the generations that are to come after. Our country, our rulers, our church, do thou greatly prosper, so that glory in our land may have its habitation. Keep us, with all near and dear to us, from evil this day; and in whatever duties we are engaged, or to whatever trials we may be subjected, may we receive from thee guidance, fortitude, and comfort; for all we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—ACTS v.

O LORD, thou art a holy and a heart-searching God. All things are naked and open to thine eye, the most secret thoughts and emotions of our souls being as thoroughly before it as any of the actions of our outward man. Thou seest not only our outgoing, and our

incoming, our downsitting, and our uprising, but also the plans and purposes which we meditate. Our thoughts thou understandest afar off; our secret sins are in the light of thy countenance. And when we think, that not a day, not an hour, of our lives passes away, without something occurring in our thoughts, our affections, or our conduct, that has upon it the stain of sin, something that is opposed to the purity of thy nature, and liable, therefore, to thy wrath; something observed by thee, if not by ourselves, insulting to thy holiness, and fitted to provoke thine indignation against us; O what reason have we to thank thee, that we have not, long ere now, been cut off from the land of the living, and the place of hope; how grateful ought we to be, that we are not left to the misery and despair, in which a sense of our guilt, without a knowledge of the way of salvation, would involve us; and how anxious ought we to be to use the means, and improve the opportunities of deliverance from the punishment we deserve. Grant then, O gracious God, that while we are convinced of our guilt and danger, while our shortcomings, and our backslidings reprove us, we may cast ourselves upon that Saviour who welcomes every weary and heavy-laden sinner; and finding in him rest from every fear, deliverance from every perplexity, comfort in every sorrow, victory over every enemy, may we cleave to him continually, may we abide in him forever. May we be made complete in him, growing up to the stature of perfect individuals, being washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. May we be duly affected by the solemn facts which we have heard this evening from thy holy word; may we never forget, that it is impossible to conceal from thee the state of our hearts or our conduct, and that hypocrisy, both in sacred and in common things, must always be displeasing in thy sight. Through thy grace may we be kept from deceiving ourselves, and from deceiving others; being made pure in heart, and free from all appearance of evil. Like thy servants of old, may we manifest the reality of our Christian profession, by a steadfast adherence to the prescribed path of duty; and though, like them, we may be reviled and evil-entreated for the gospel's sake, may we be faithful to our heavenly Master, and ready to make any sacrifice, rather than shrink from the service he requires of us; yea, may we rejoice if we are counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. Hasten, O Lord, the time when the religion of the cross shall overcome every obstruction; when every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places smooth, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. Prosper every institution having for its object the advancement of the kingdom of Christ. Bless the church planted in our own land. May she be as a well-watered garden, replenished with trees of righteousness, that thou mayest be glorified. Make all her ministers faithful, her elders exemplary and active in their labors of love; and the whole body of her members true witnesses for Christ. Bless the young; turn their hearts from vanity and sin, to the love of thyself. Dwell in this family, and impart to all belonging to it wisdom and holiness, and the fear of the

Lord. Visit in mercy the habitations of trouble and affliction. O give the needful consolation, and let not sorrow work death, but sanctification, and eternal life. Hear the cry of the needy, the orphan, the widow, and the stranger. Prepare the dying for death; and as we feel our days and years to pass swiftly away, may we feel more and more the importance of preparing to meet our God. O when the hour of meeting shall arrive, may we be ready to render our account with joy, and not with grief. Our bodies, our souls, and all that concerns us, we would now commit to thy keeping for this night and forever; looking for thy mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, one eternal God, we would ascribe honor and glory, dominion and praise, now, and for evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS IV.

O LORD, thou art wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working. Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are all thy ways, thou King of saints. Thou hast done great things for us, of which we have reason to be glad. Thou hast been doing us good continually. Notwithstanding all our rebellion, and faithlessness, and ingratitude, thou hast never left thyself without a witness concerning us, for thou hast been filling our hearts with food and gladness; affording us provision and comfort, when we deserved destitution and misery. O may we be enabled by thy gracious Spirit, to look at all temporal blessings as among the things that are made sure to believers in Christ. May the thought that they come, and are continued to us by him, who, as Mediator, has control over all things, sweeten them to our taste, enhance them in our esteem, and make us satisfied with the portion of them assigned us. May we rejoice to believe that he will give us as much as is for our good, and that he will withhold what would prove injurious. Thus may we be instructed, both to be full, and to be hungry; both to abound, and to suffer need. In whatever state we are, therewith may we be content. We pray, heavenly Father, not only for a contented mind under the temporal provision afforded us, but for a spirit of holy submission under the various allotments of thy providence. May we be able, under every event, however trying, to stand in awe and not sin. We know that infallible wisdom and perfect rectitude, mark all thy determinations, and all thy government, and all thy ways. We know, that often those very dispensations which we are ready to consider adverse, are fraught with the greatest blessings thou canst bestow; and that all thy dealings towards thy people, shall conduce to their eternal welfare. May we then, under the afflictions that befall us, instead of saying with Jacob, All these things are against me; be able to say, with the Shunammite, It is well, it shall be well. And though trouble and affliction in their most trying

forms should anoint us, may none of these things move us. May we be strong in faith, giving glory to God, from the greatest depths of sorrow. May we still retain an unwavering confidence in him who has said, I will never leave you, I will never forsake you. May we be enabled to lift our Ebenezer, and say, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us, and he will help us still; who remembered us in our low estate, for his mercy endureth forever; and hath redeemed us from our enemies, for his mercy endureth forever; who giveth food to all flesh, for his mercy endureth forever. O give thanks unto the God of heaven, for his mercy endureth forever. Bless us, and all for whom we ought to pray; high and low, rich and poor, young and old. Bless Zion; may she prosper. May her ministers be faithful, and successful. May the whole body of her members be pure, so that her very enemies may be constrained to say, The Lord is here. May true religion flourish in this house, and in this parish; and may thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven; for all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—ACTS VI.

EVER-BLESSED and most merciful God, who, in former times, didst show thyself mighty to bring good out of evil, order out of confusion, and light out of darkness: overruling contention within, as well as opposition without, the church, and ordering events so as to secure her welfare, and thine own glory, we would be encouraged by thy past procedure, to ask thee to interpose in these days, and by thy counsel, and thy power, imparted to those who are appointed watchmen over the spiritual interests of thy people, enable them to remove all errors in government, doctrine, and discipline, and so to purify thy church, as that all just cause for complaining shall be taken away, and the professed members of Christ, her living Head, shall be joined together in love, and keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. In us, as belonging to the number, do thou destroy all the elements of strife, and imbue our minds with that spirit of Christian charity which will lead us to beware giving needless offence to any, to be deeply concerned for the welfare of immortal souls, and to do good to all as we have opportunity. Putting away from us all bitterness, and wrath, and envy, and clamor, and evil-speaking, may we be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us; and while we are called upon earnestly to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, to be valiant for the truth upon the earth; may our zeal ever be guided by knowledge, animated by love, and free from all unholy passion. May we never dishonor thy cause, or our own profession, by the exhibition of violence or deceit; but in all things approve ourselves as the servants of God, by pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

by the word of truth, and by the power of God. In the spirit of love and zeal, we pray that thou wouldest visit the habitations of cruelty and sin with thy mercy. Let the light of the gospel, and the peace thereof, speedily spread over all lands. At home and abroad, let the people, yea, all the people praise thee. Let Jew and Gentile, barbarian and Scythian, bond and free, be brought together within the fold of thy church, and one universal acclaim of gratitude ascend to thee from every people and every clime. This house do thou fill with thy blessing. This parish do thou water with the dews of thy grace. This land, do thou make a land of righteousness and peace. O hear these humble supplications, and while we cast our care upon thee, cast thou over us thy protection and thy grace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS v.

O LORD, thou art our God, early would we seek thee. Enable us this morning humbly to approach thy footstool, and give unto thee the glory which is due unto thy name. We adore thee as Lord of heaven and earth, the Fountain of all excellence and blessedness; glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders. Whom have we in heaven but thee? there is none on earth whom our souls would desire besides thee. With shame and confusion of face we would confess our sins in thy presence. O thou who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, enter not into judgment with us, for in thy sight shall no flesh living be justified. Reveal to us, we beseech thee, the exceeding sinfulness of our sins, the guilt and danger of that spiritual disease which has prevailed within us. May we see the corruption of our hearts, and mourn with godly sorrow over the transgressions of our lives. We have sinned, and what shall we answer thee, O thou preserver of men. Like the leper of old, it becomes us to cry out, Unclean, unclean. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in us. Our hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. But we desire to take encouragement from the assurance that there is a balm in Gilead, and a Physician there. Blessed be thou, O God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who didst look with pity on our low and lost estate, and didst, in the exercise of sovereign mercy, set forth thy Son to be a propitiation for sin, through faith in his blood. O apply to our souls this blood of sprinkling. Wash us in the fountain thus opened in the house of David for sin and for uncleanness. Blot out our iniquities as a cloud, our transgressions as a thick cloud. Have mercy on us for thy great name's sake. Heal our backslidings, and love us freely. Wash us and we shall be clean, purge us with hyssop and we shall be whiter than the snow. And, O Lord, we beseech thee for the gift of thy Holy Spirit. May his quickening and

sanctifying influences be shed on us abundantly, through Jesus Christ, to awake a deeper sense of sin's exceeding sinfulness, to fill us with enlarged apprehensions of redeeming love, and enable us to adorn our profession by a life and conversation becoming the gospel. Forbid that our affections should cleave to the dust, or that we should even offer thee the homage of a divided heart, seeing that we are not our own, but bought with a price. May we live no more unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us. Being made free from sin, may we be indeed the servants of God, having our fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. To thy grace would we this day commend ourselves and all whom we ought to remember before thee. Look in mercy on a world lying in wickedness. Excite everywhere a growing zeal in the cause of Christ, and hasten the happy time when all men shall know thee, and call thee blessed. Bless those united to us in the ties of relationship or friendship. May grace and mercy and peace be multiplied upon them. Be with us through the day, to strengthen us for its various duties. Whatsoever our hand findeth to do, may we do it with all our might. Order our footsteps in thy word, and suffer no iniquity to have the dominion over us. Hear these our prayers, and accept of us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ACTS VII. 1-29.

O THOU who dwellest in the high and holy place, we bless thee that thine ear is open to the cry of the humble; that though thou inhabitest eternity and its praises, yet to this man wilt thou look, who is poor and of a contrite heart, and who trembleth at thy word. Enable us, gracious God, in humble reliance on the merits of our Redeemer, to approach thee as children coming to a Father, and fulfil in our experience thine own blessed promise, that wherever two or three are met together in thy name, thou wilt be present with them, to bless them and to do them good. We thank thee, O Lord, for all that we are taught of thy dealings with thine ancient people. As we have heard with our ears what things thou didst in their days, in the times of old, O may these manifestations of thy purposes and character produce a deep and saving impression on our souls. Thou who art the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to whom can we go but unto thee? Throughout all generations thy name and memorial has been, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin. Enable us, we entreat thee, to rely on thine unfailing mercy and unchanging faithfulness. God of our fathers! who keepest covenant and mercy with them that love thee, O be thou our refuge and our dwelling-place. Enable us from the heart to say, This God is our God forever and ever, he will be our guide even unto death. Deepen, we entreat thee, on our minds a sense of our exceeding sinfulness, and while our iniquities are felt

as a heavy burden, may we look to him who died upon the cross to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows. We bless thee that the grace of God, which bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men; and while we rely on thy mercy in Christ Jesus, we pray to be kept faithful to our Redeemer and our Lord. In all circumstances of difficulty and trial may we be enabled to avow our attachment to his cause, and by the growing holiness of our lives, may men have reason to take knowledge respecting us that we have been with Jesus. May his words, which are spirit and life, dwell in us richly in all wisdom, and may the love of God be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, given to us abundantly. Thou knowest, O Lord, our weaknesses and wants, but we entreat thee to supply all our need out of the fulness which is in Christ. Restrain our corruptions, strengthen our desires after holiness, and teach us effectually to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Fill us with the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, that these things being in us, and abounding, we may neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thou, O Lord, art our refuge and our strength. Never leave us and never forsake us. May we be led forever in the paths of righteousness, and kept by thy mighty power through faith unto salvation. Remember, we entreat thee, in mercy our brethren of mankind. Look with compassion on the guilty and the perishing. Where sin hath abounded, may grace much more abound; and let all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God. Be very gracious to all who are near and dear to us. Lord, bless them and keep them; may they walk in the light of thy countenance, and dwell in safety under the shadow of thy wings. Accept, gracious God, of our humble thanks for thy goodness through the day. We bless thee for that care which has again made the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice; and we pray for a deeper sense of our ever-increasing obligations to thee, the God of our lives. To thy care we commit ourselves during the night. Thou who keepest Israel, who slumberest not nor sleepest, be thou at our right hand, and we shall not be greatly moved. Encompass us with thy favor as with a shield, and be our portion forever. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS VI.

O LORD, we give thee thanks, through Jesus Christ, that we can come to thee as our gracious Father, reconciled to us by thy own dear Son, in whom thou art ever well pleased. We bless thee that we are permitted to cast all our care upon thee, for thou carest for us; and we would be encouraged, in our every distress, to apply to thee for help. When our dwelling is enlarged, and our family prospereth, we would most humbly acknowledge thee as the author of

the mercy. In all our family, as well as our individual arrangements, help us to look to thee, that thou mayest direct our steps. O most gracious God, we would bow before thee in humility, and acknowledge thy kindness, in thus dealing so mercifully with poor rebels, such as we, who are continually liable to unbelief, and suspicions of thy love. Bring this root of sin to our conscience, and lead us to deplore it. Blot out its guilt in the blood of Jesus. Fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and a work of faith with power, that we may, as heirs of the righteousness of faith, triumph over our every sinful doubt, and joy in the comforting assurance that thou wilt never leave us, never forsake us. Blessed be thy name for the intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ. We confess that we owe our spared life and our every mercy to it. Blessed Lord, help us to wait on thee for enlarged mercies, through this intercession. And let not the abundance of our mercies lead us to forget thee. We would deplore the earthliness of our desires, and the carnality of our hearts, which lead us so often to rest in thy gifts, while we forget thee, the giver; and inasmuch as we, as a people, have so often in time past refused to acknowledge thy hand in our plenty, we confess that thou mightest most justly remove our plenty, and smite us with famine, yea, send enemies upon us, and besiege us in all our gates. But we pray that we may be forgiven, and that thou wouldest revive thy work in the midst of us. O destroy sin from our hearts; satisfy us with thy early mercy, and then shall we be glad, and trust in thee. Let thy name be glorified throughout the world. Let a rich blessing of the Spirit be with the preached gospel, till all the earth be filled with the knowledge of Jesus. Be with us throughout this day. Watch and guide us, and gather us around our family altar in the evening, to praise thee through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—ACTS VII. 30-60.

ALMIGHTY and most blessed Jehovah, be pleased to grant us access into thy presence, through Jesus Christ the only Mediator. We adore thee as the Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer of thy people. Thou hast formed them for thyself, they shall show forth thy praise. The foe shall not exact upon them, nor the son of mischief wrong them longer than it pleaseth thee. Grant that we being enrolled among their number may have a right to their privileges. Visit us with the pardon of all our sins. Sprinkle clean water on us and we shall be clean. Cleanse us from all our idols and vain imaginations, and make us willing to follow the Lord Jesus as our example in all things. Bring our soul out of bondage that we may praise thy name. Thou art a Spirit, and art to be worshipped in spirit and in truth. Grant us the aid of thy Holy Spirit in drawing near unto thee. May we constantly enjoy his grace, as a Spirit of supplica-

tions. And may all-directing power uphold us from mingling any impurity of our own, with thy holy worship. May the Spirit ever help us to remember, that thou art a jealous God, and canst condescend to hold communion with us sinners, only in the way of thine own appointment. And being emboldened by his might, let us bear a true testimony for thee. Let no rage of enemies, no fear of death, deter us from confessing Christ. Fill us with his spirit of devotedness to thee, and compassion to our enemies. Teach us so to live that we may at length fall asleep in Jesus. Blessed be thy name that he has made the grave a bed of rest to all his followers, and that he hath spoiled death of his sting. O may we find the grave a passage to glory, and rise at length with thy people to life everlasting. Help us to live to thee. Let our all be consecrated to thy service, and ready at thy call. Let Jesus be glorified in the spread of his truth. Revive and quicken us, O Lord, even for thy mercies' sake. Send forth thy light and thy truth in the midst of us. Turn, O speedily turn the multitudes of the careless to seek reconciliation and life from Jesus, our Lord; that our land being revived by life from on high, may send the knowledge of the Saviour to every corner of the earth. Let the kingdoms of this world speedily become the kingdoms of the Lord, and his Christ. O have mercy on the perishing sinners of the heathen, and extend thy compassion to blind-ed Israel. Our country and kindred, our friends in Jesus, and all our acquaintance, we commend to thy care. Watch us through the night. Refresh us with rest, and raise us invigorated for the duties of a new day, that we may ever live to thy glory. And glory shall be thine through everlasting ages, by Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS VII.

O LORD, thou art the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We bless thee for having revealed thyself as reconciling the world unto thyself in Christ Jesus, and for having invited and encouraged us to draw near to thee as our Father and our God. We have sinned and done iniquity in thy sight; we have sinned against the mercies of thy providence, the invitations and privileges of thy grace, the light and liberty and glory of the gospel day. What manner of love then, O Lord, is this, that thou shouldest still be willing to pardon; that thou shouldest even now permit us to approach unto thy presence, and encourage us to pour out our souls in supplication, by the assurance that we have an advocate at thy right hand, and that whatsoever we ask in his name thou wilt not refuse to bestow. And what monstrous iniquity is this, that we should be distrustful of thy promises and of thy love, and hesitate to place our confidence and to seek our enjoyment in thee, the God of our salvation. Take then away from us the evil heart of unbelief. Remove the doubts and fears and all the crumity of our deceitful hearts. Enable us to be-

hold thy glory in the face of Jesus, and then to discern the steadfastness of thy love and the fulness of thy promises. May we walk by faith on the Son of God, and thus be strengthened and purified to yield ourselves obedient to thy holy will, yea, even to yield our bodies a living sacrifice to thee, holy and acceptable, through Jesus Christ. Through this day to the light of which thou hast in thy mercy brought us, do thou guide and strengthen us by thy grace, that all which we do we may do to thy glory, that in all the duties and intercourse of life we may adorn the doctrine of our Lord and Saviour. Suffer not thy fear to depart from our hearts, and take not thy Holy Spirit away from us. Make us strong to resist all temptation, watchful and prayerful, that we do not enter into it. Sanctify us wholly, and keep us in soul, body, and spirit, unto the glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. And all that we ask is for his sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—ACTS VIII. 1-25.

HOLY and ever-blessed Father, we present ourselves before thee, in our Saviour's name, to bless thee for the mercies and the love with which thou hast crowned us this day, and to confess and mourn the many sins of which, in heart, and speech, and behavior, we have been guilty. Our own hearts condemn us. How much more must we be condemned by thee, who art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things, knowest our most secret sins, and seest them to be more vile and abominable than we can fancy. Blessed be thy name, that there is hope concerning this, that there is forgiveness with thee, and plenteous redemption. O then that thou wouldst regard all our sins as borne by our Saviour in his own body on the tree, that thou wouldst regard us as separated forever from their guilt, and as clothed with the robe of the Redeemer's righteousness, and with the garments of his salvation. And to us, as united to the person of thy well-beloved Son, do thou show thy favor, and largely impart thy Spirit. Give us grace that we may perfect holiness in thy fear, and walk in that glorious liberty of thy children to which all thy people are advanced. To us, and to thy whole church and people, do thou overrule, as in times past, the dealings of thy providence for good, for the establishment of thy saints in faith and holiness, and for the enlargement and increase of thy kingdom. Remove all the darkness that rests upon the church's prospects, and all the unfaithfulness, and hypocrisy, and slothfulness that are to be found within her pale. Enable thy people to possess their hearts in confidence, that over all the distress and perplexity of nations, thou wilt bring in the glory of the latter days, and establish the kingdom that shall be given to the saints of the Most High. Bless our native land. Give all grace and true wisdom to our President, to our rulers, and senators, that by thy favor we may be preserved from those

sins that shall ruin, and those judgments that shall overtake so many kingdoms of the earth. Bless abundantly the ministers of the everlasting gospel, especially those who have been sent forth to heathen lands; endow them with all strength and wisdom, and make them instrumental in hastening on the time when the dark places of the earth shall smile as the garden of the Lord. And now, O Lord, ourselves, and our friends, all our interests and cares, we would in faith and love commit to thee. Let thy hand be on us for good during this night, and let thy presence be with us during our whole lives, and let all our prayers be answered, according to thy riches in glory, by Christ Jesus. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS VIII.

O LORD our God, impress deeply upon our minds all the lessons of thy blessed word, that they may be profitable to us for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that our lives may be guided by thy law, and our hearts moulded by thy truth. Open thou our eyes that we may see the wonders of thy law, and that we may see the vileness of our own hearts. Turn away our eyes from viewing vanity, and keep us from listening to the counsel, and from joining in the company of the ungodly. May we set thee continually before us, and may thy fear ever abide in our hearts. Establish in us thy kingdom, which is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost; and enable us to be as living epistles of Christ Jesus, known and read of all men. O that we may walk worthy of our high calling as sons of God, and that we may have thy Holy Spirit abiding within us, the living witness of thy love, the mighty agent of thy grace to our souls. We desire to remember before thee all our friends and relatives; all the children of affliction, both those that are thy children, and those that know not where true comfort is to be obtained. In thy love and mercy, O Lord, do thou pity and bless them with thy grace. Preserve the young from the snares of error and of sin. Enable their parents to keep in mind their solemn engagements to train up their offspring as the heirs of the promises, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Put into the hearts of all masters, and teachers, and governors, to watch for the souls of those who are committed to their charge, that they may approve themselves unto thee the Lord. Let judgment run down as a stream, and righteousness as a mighty river. May the voice of rejoicing and salvation be in every tabernacle. O Lord, incline thine ear and hear. O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O our God; for all our hope and confidence are in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ACTS VIII. 26-40.

Most holy Father, enable us, in drawing nigh to thee at the close of another week, to humble ourselves because of all the sins that throughout its course we have committed, and all the unthankfulness and unworthiness wherewith we are chargeable. In the multitude of our thoughts within us, how seldom have we cherished thoughts of thee! and in the midst of all our enjoyments, how little have we sought to enjoy thy favor, and thy fellowship, and thy presence! Our iniquities we cannot reckon up before thee; they have gone up over our heads; they reach even to the heavens; and were it not that thy mercy endureth forever, we must long ere now have been consumed. Look now upon us, we entreat thee, in the face of thine Anointed. And, as thou givest us the near prospect of another day of Christian privilege and holy rest, preserve us unto it, and prepare us for it. Let thy Holy Spirit come with power into our hearts, to restrain our worldly thoughts, to crucify our sinful affections, to awaken new delights in thy word, and new desires towards thy courts. To us and to all our friends grant that thy day that draweth on, may be a day of the power and glory of the Saviour. Bless all thy ministering servants throughout the church, that they may be directed to seasonable words, and that they may be enabled to preach them affectionately, and purely, and successfully. Feed thy church everywhere, that it languish not. Refresh thy heritage, and that right early. Hasten the time when, throughout the whole world, thy sabbaths shall be hallowed, and in every tongue, and by every family of men, thy worship shall be acceptably celebrated. Hasten the time when thine ancient people shall be built up into the one spiritual temple of the Holy Ghost, and shall enter into the enjoyment of Christian privileges and saving grace. May we ever be found rejoicing in the hope of that blessed time when the knowledge of thee shall cover the earth, and of that glorious day when the number of the elect shall be completed, and the marriage of the Lamb shall have come. Unto which do thou give us to look and haste, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Twenty-Fifth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXVII.

PRAISE waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion, and unto thee shall the vow be paid. O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. We, the monuments of thy sparing mercy, would, on the

morning of this thy holy day, desire to bow at the footstool of thy throne. We bless thee, that by the return of the Christian sabbath, the instituted memorial of our Redeemer's triumph over death and the grave, we are reminded that thou, the Sovereign of the universe, art seated upon a throne of mercy and grace—that, well pleased with thy beloved Son, thou beholdest with a pleasant countenance all who come unto thee by him, as the propitiation for sin through faith in his blood,—that thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. On him we would place all our dependence for pardon, for reconciliation, and life. See, O God, our shield, look on the face of thine Anointed. For his sake take away all our iniquity, heal our backslidings, love us freely, receive us graciously. May thy Spirit take of the things that are Christ's, and show them to us in all their suitableness to the wants and weaknesses of our immortal souls, so as that we may esteem him as all our salvation, and as all our desire. Impart unto us more full and realizing views of thy glory in the face of Christ. In him and in his cross may we see mercy and truth meeting together, righteousness and peace embracing each other. When temptations assail us, when fears depress us, when led to question thy promises and grace, may we be enabled to meditate upon thy doings, and may thy Spirit so guide our meditations, that we may be victorious over every spiritual foe; that we may be prepared to acquiesce in thy will in all things, both in doing and in suffering. May thy ways and thy words be the subject of our attention on this thy holy day, and may our meditation of thee be sweet. We would, in a more especial manner, entreat thee to be with us when we go to thy house of prayer, and to make us joyful in thy presence. Do thou, who appointedst leaders for thine ancient people, and didst qualify them for their work, be with thy ministering servant who is on this day to guide our devotions. May he come forth in the fulness of the power of the gospel of Christ; and while the treasure is only in earthen vessels, may the power and the excellency be of thee. Accompany with thy blessing the preaching of the gospel throughout this and all lands. Accept of our thanksgiving for the goodness thou hast hitherto made to pass before us. We bless thee for the mercies of the past night and this morning, and for the comfortable circumstances in which we now appear before thee. Pardon all our sins and vouchsafe to us an answer in peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and only Redeemer. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM LXXVIII. 1-24.

UNTO thee, O Lord, we, on the evening of this thy holy day, would desire to lift up our souls. We bless thee that thou hast established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel; that we have thy word as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

We bless thee that therein thou hast revealed thyself as in Christ Jesus reconciling the world to thyself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; as having provided, for those who were perishing, a remedy, wonderful in its nature, and complete in its efficacy, and in its extent, as having laid our help upon One who is mighty. May that Spirit, who teacheth all things, yea, even the deep things of God, open our eyes to behold wondrous things out of thy law. May we be brought to feel that it is indeed quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and that it is a dis-cerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. By that Spirit may we be enabled to apply it faithfully to our consciences, to our hearts and lives. Examine us, O God, and try us, and see if there be in us any evil way; that, convinced of sin, feeling that it is not in ourselves to direct our own steps, and that if tried by that law we could not appear in hope at the tribunal of a holy and heart-searching judge, we may resort to the Rock that is higher than we; that regarding thy name, thy perfections so wondrously manifested in the gospel of thy grace, as a strong tower, we may be enabled so to be-take ourselves thither, as to share in spiritual and everlasting safety. For these ends follow with thy rich and effectual blessing the exer-cises in which we have on this day been engaged. May the truths we have read or heard from thy word be deeply impressed upon our hearts. May we hide them there that we may not sin against thee. May it be our daily endeavor to direct the attention of those with whom thou hast blessed us, and of all to whom our influence ex-tends, to these important truths, that they may not forget thee, but may ever keep thy commandments, that there may be a seed to do service to thee when we shall be gathered to our fathers. Pardon, O Lord, the sins of our holy things, whatever thou hast on this day seen amiss in any part of our conduct. Enable us more habitually to realize thy holy presence, and ever to worship and serve thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth. Follow with thy blessing the preaching of the gospel throughout the church, and hasten the time when the privileges we have this day enjoyed, and the hopes we are permitted to cherish, shall be extended to those who are still in dark-ness, and in the region and shadow of death. May all our friends be interested in thy favor, which is life, and in thy loving-kindness, which is better than life. Visit in mercy all the sons and daughters of affliction, all who are in distress, in mind, in body, or in outward estate. Sanctify the bereaving dispensations of thy providence to such as are visited by them. Accept of our thanksgivings for the mercies of this day of the Son of Man. Watch over us throughout the coming night; and if it be thy will that we should awake to the light of a new day, enable us to carry out with us into the world, in all their practical influence, the principles and the feelings by which we have this day professed to be actuated. Pardon our sins, and hear and answer us in mercy, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS IX.

O LORD, we adore thee as not only holy in hating, but as also just in punishing sin; as a consuming fire to all workers of iniquity; who hast declared that there is no peace to the wicked. Ever bearing in mind, that what was written aforetime was written for our learning, may these views of thy nature and perfections, set before us in the portion of thy word we have now been permitted to read, be deeply impressed upon our hearts. Write, O God, we beseech thee, that perfect law of thine upon our hearts. Aid us by thy Spirit in all our endeavors to avail ourselves of it as a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Give us grace to cherish those principles by which we have so lately, on thy day, and in the services of thy sanctuary, professed to be actuated. May we carry them along with us to the business of life; by these may we be influenced in all the duties to which, in the course of thy providence, we may be called, and in all the trials and temptations to which we may be exposed; that thus letting our light shine before men, they may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus, and may thus be led to glorify thee, our Father in heaven. May we ever live as disciples of Jesus, in whose teachings we have so clear illustrations of the purity and extent of thy holy law, and in whose sufferings we see mercy and truth meeting together, righteousness and peace embracing each other, the impressive punishment of sin, and at the same time, a way into the holiest of all opened up for us who had sinned. We would come to thee by this way, we would esteem an interest in a once crucified, but now glorified Redeemer, as all our salvation, and as all our desire. We would call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to bless and magnify thy holy name, who hast visited us in our low and lost estate, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us. We would adore the condescension and the grace of him who, although he was rich, became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich. And O may thy Spirit take of the things that are Christ's and show them unto us, that, exercising a believing dependence upon him, we may ever feel the constraining influence of his unparalleled love; leading us thus to judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him that died for them. May we ever live by his law, and uniformly walk in his footsteps. Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, may we be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. May we follow him through good report and through bad report, that as he was raised from the dead by the glory of thee, the Father, we also may walk before thee in newness of life. May we have grace so to live by faith in him now, that when he shall appear we may have confidence, and may not be ashamed before him at his coming. We bless thee, O Lord, for the mercies of the past night, and of this morning. Give us grace to walk in thy

fear all the day long. Prosper us in all our lawful pursuits; may we be diligent in business, acknowledging thee in all our ways, and looking up to thee for direction in all our paths, relying upon thy grace amidst all the temptations that may assail us. Pardon our sins, and hear us in mercy, for the sake of thy Son, our only Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—ACTS IX. 1-22.

ON the evening of this day, we, O Lord, would desire to bow before thee, as the hearer and the answerer of prayer. Thou, Lord, hast done great things for us in love, and thy mercy is upon them that fear thee, from generation unto generation. We bless thee, that Jesus was declared to be thy Son with power, and by the resurrection from the dead; and that, exalted to thy right hand as the advocate of his people, he is able and willing to save unto the uttermost all who come unto thee by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. We bless thee for the recorded illustration of the efficacy of his saving power and grace, to which our attention hath now been directed; and assured that he is the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever, we would desire to cast ourselves upon the riches of that grace. May we be a willing people in the day of the Saviour's power. May every thought and every imagination in us, that would exalt itself against the knowledge of thee our God, be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. And while rejoicing that there is no condemnation to them who are in him, may we ever bear in mind, that all such walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; that when he gave himself for us, it was that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. May his law ever be our guide, his statutes our counsellors, and his judgments our song in the house of our pilgrimage. May we be careful to walk as he also walked. Like him, may we count it our meat to do the will of thee, our Father in heaven; and like him, may we ever be ready to do good to all; to do what in us lies to promote the temporal and the spiritual welfare of our brethren of mankind, and, in all our endeavors to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling; do thou, Lord, work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power. Ever impart unto us grace, whereby we may serve thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Enable us to live by faith in Christ, that when he who is our life shall appear, we may also appear with him in glory. May thy kingdom come, may thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. May the time soon come, when the knowledge of thee, the Lord, shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Bless the church established in our native land. Bless this corner of thy vineyard, and strengthen the hands and encourage the

heart of thy servant who labors among us in holy things. Command an abundant blessing upon his labors. Bless our native land, and all ranks and degrees of persons in it. Comfort all who mourn, heal the sick, bind up the broken-hearted. Prepare the dying for death, and may the living lay it to heart that they too must die. Be the friend of our friends, reward our benefactors, forgive our enemies. We would desire to acknowledge, with grateful hearts, all the goodness thou hast ever made to pass before us. We bless thee for what of thy goodness and grace we have experienced throughout the day come to a close, and for the comfortable circumstances in which we have now been permitted to worship thee. Pardon the sins of which we have been guilty. Enable us now to lie down in thy fear, that we may awake in thy favor. And all that we ask is in a dependence upon the merits of Jesus Christ, our only Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS x.

EVERLASTING God, we approach thee in Christ Jesus, by whom alone we can have access to thee. Pardon our sins, and enable us to draw near to thee, not in the spirit of bondage, but as children to a reconciled Father. We thank thee for bringing us to the light of another day, and we implore that, while graciously continuing to us our temporal being, thou wouldst make us look to our immortal destiny, and improve all other blessings for the glory and the salvation of our souls. We again desire therefore to renew our covenant with thee. May the Holy Spirit reveal to us our awful state by nature. May he convince us more and more of our sin and misery and utter helplessness. May he take of the things of Christ, and show them unto us. May the Spirit show unto us Christ's glorious nature, his wondrous humiliation, his perfect work, the full and free provision secured by it. May he make us to hunger and thirst more after righteousness; to understand, to appropriate, to feed upon the promises, so that the life we live in the flesh may be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and who gave himself for us. Bless to us the instructions of thy holy word. Lead us to consider how sure are the threatenings that come from the mouth of the Lord, and that they shall all be fulfilled. But O! suffer us not to take refuge from thy coming judgments in any false system. May we ever feel that there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved, but the name of Jesus only. May we ourselves be interested in that name, and do thou hearken to us when we pray for all idolaters, whether in heathen or in Christian lands, and that thou wouldst bring them, and the followers of every other error, to the acknowledgment and obedience of the truth. Impress us, heavenly Father, by a deeper sense of the evils which sin has brought upon the world. May the record of the calamities and miseries which

it has entailed be made the means of enabling us to see still more the need of a Mediator, to receive him the more joyfully, to rely upon him the more faithfully, and prove him, as the rock smitten in this wilderness, to be drawing more abundantly the waters of life, till the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall feed us and lead us to living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. Lord have mercy on us, and bless through Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—ACTS IX. 23-43.

THOU art the high and holy One that inhabitest eternity, but humblest thyself to behold what is done upon the earth. Look in mercy upon us who now bow ourselves before thee, and grant unto us the Spirit of grace, and of supplication. We thank thee for thy blessed work, but would remember that thou only canst enable us to understand and to profit by it. We pray for those who resist all the evidences by which thou testifiest the truth of thy word. Persuade them that if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them who are lost, in whom the god of this world blinds their minds, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine into them. Bestow upon them an humble, teachable, prayerful disposition, the honest and the good heart, that they may see and receive the truth. Do thou who commandest the light to shine out of darkness, shine into their minds to give them the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. May we ourselves feel that it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy. May we all be the objects of thy mercy. May we, like Paul, thy servant, be truly converted to Christ by the Holy Spirit. And, O God, may we have daily increasing evidences of the reality of our union to him, in the purification of our hearts, and in the devotedness of our lives to his glory, and the spiritual and temporal welfare of our fellow-creatures. May thy ministering servants be enabled to behold Christ as ascended up on high, leading captivity captive, and procuring gifts for men. May they feel that he is Head over all things to his church, that he is the same to-day, yesterday, and forever, and that he will preserve and prosper it till all his elect are gathered and prepared for heaven. May they discharge every duty in the faith of thy promises, and in a spirit of prayerful dependence on thy power. And do thou, O Lord, look down upon them as in the days of old, and give efficacy to the word of thy grace. Direct and preserve thy church amidst all her tribulations; and when a rest is vouchsafed to her, may she not sink into spiritual sloth, but be edified, and walking in the fear of God, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, be multiplied. We would remember, O God, before thee the sins of which we have this day been guilty. Make us to feel that they are sufficient of themselves to con-

denn us. Blessed be thy name for Christ, the propitiation. Sprinkle his blood upon our hearts, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Preserve us through the ensuing night, O thou who never slumberest, and in thine infinite mercy regard us in all things necessary for soul and body, for time and eternity, through Jesus Christ, the Son, to whom with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, be everlasting praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XI.

O THOU great and glorious, and, in Christ Jesus, most gracious God, behold us in mercy, for we are sinners before thee, sinners by nature, and by unnumbered actual transgressions; we deserve nothing but condemnation, we can plead for nothing but mercy. Lord, be merciful to us miserable sinners. Blot out all our iniquities by the cleansing blood of Christ. Speak peace unto our souls. Shine into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. May we be enabled to see, to love, to cleave unto thee this day, as our Father in Christ. May we be emptied of ourselves. May we be delivered from all self-righteous feelings, from all trust in our own wisdom and strength, from all mere worldly desires. May Christ dwell within us. May we behold his glory, the glory of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. May we see that thou, the eternal and omnipotent God, hast made thyself over to us in him,—I will be a Father to you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. O! that thou wouldst enable us this day to appropriate to ourselves the privileges of this blessed relation; wherever we are, and in whatever duties we are engaged, may we realize a sense of thy fatherly presence. Whilst others say, who will show us any good? our heart's desire is, that thou, O God, wouldst lift up the light of thy countenance upon us. Do thou lead us to love thee with all our heart and soul, to walk as if seeing thee who art invisible; to be constrained to every duty by the remembrance of thine unspeakable goodness and mercy, and to resist every temptation, saying, Shall we do this great evil and sin against God. Bless unto us the instructions of thy holy word; may it be as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Do thou bring up to our remembrance the lessons which it teaches; do thou cause us to follow them in our own daily walk and conversation. We pray especially for our native land. May it be in covenant with thee. May thy word be received by it as the word of the living God, and be followed as the supreme, the only rule of duty. May we seek thy favor in Christ Jesus above all things, keeping thy commandments, and statutes and judgments, and so may we know that the Lord our God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. Hear us, O Lord, for Christ's sake. Amen

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ACTS x. 1-24.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, we acknowledge that in ourselves we are full of darkness and of enmity, and that it is altogether of thy grace and by the Holy Spirit that any of the children of men are awakened from their natural condition, and led to take heed unto the things which belong to their eternal peace. We pray that thou wouldst be pleased to stir up to a sense of sin and danger, those who are unconcerned about their everlasting destiny, that thou wouldst lead them to inquire for thy truth, and that thou wouldst not cease to enlighten and to guide them, till thou hast brought forth judgment unto victory. And do thou make us all to feel that even when we are brought to Christ by the Spirit, we have need to be constantly upheld by thy grace; and do thou, O blessed God, cause us to cleave to him, and keep us by thy mighty power through faith unto salvation. We implore that thou wouldst cause us all to feel for the spiritual darkness, and degradation, and misery of heathen lands, and to act in regard to them as those who are persuaded that Christ is the only Saviour; that there is no present peace, no future happiness, but through an interest in his blood. Blessed God, enlarge our hearts towards those who are in the region and shadow of death; multiply the number of those who may declare to them the unsearchable riches of Christ. May they go forth as called by thee; may they labor in the faith of thy promises, and in dependence on thy grace; and do thou, O Holy Spirit, one with the Father and the Son, come down upon them and bless their labors, so that great multitudes may believe and be turned unto the Lord. We pray this evening for the forgiveness of all our trespasses. Whilst day after day is passing on, and hurrying us so much nearer to death, and judgment, and eternity, we beseech thee to make us feel more strongly how short our time is, and give us grace to redeem it. Make us more humble, more full of faith and love in Christ; beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, may we be changed into the same image, from glory unto glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. We throw ourselves upon thy mercy this night. Do thou receive us, heavenly Father, and grant that whether we live, we may live unto the Lord; whether we die, we may die unto the Lord; whether living or dying we may be his. In Christ's name we present our supplications, and through him would we implore a gracious answer. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS xii.

O LIVING God, thou art not confined to temples made with hands: heaven is thy throne, and earth is thy footstool. Thou art everywhere present to hear the cry and to answer the prayer of those who

call upon thee in spirit and in truth. But we bless and adore thee, that though thou inhabitest the praises of eternity, and fillest the universe with thy presence, thou hast chosen Zion for thy dwelling-place, to make known thy mercy, and display thy glory there. And we thank thee, O Lord, for that rich river of gospel ordinances which makes glad thy holy city, and revives the hopes of thy waiting people. Praise and glory be unto thy blessed name, that thou art building up, in this ruined and guilty world, a glorious spiritual temple, of which the ancient temple was only a type. May thy gracious spirit descend into our hearts, to draw us near unto thyself, and to make us living stones in that glorious edifice, which is built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone. And may the Holy Spirit purify the inner temple of our souls, and make them a fit habitation for the living God. We have cause, O Lord, to mourn and lament that sin has so frequently defiled the temple of our hearts. We have cause to lament the evil suggestions of satan, the sad power of the world, and of our own unholy desires. O blessed Spirit of the Saviour, come and revisit thy temple. Quicken us from the death of sin, purify our hearts from its polluting influence, and exalt the Saviour to the throne of our affections. In our future lives, by thy grace, may our thoughts and our desires be fixed in heaven, where Christ now sitteth at the right hand of God. And may we be enabled, by a holy and consistent conduct, to evidence the inward presence of the spirit of holiness. Guide us, O Lord, during this day, by thy heavenly counsel, and lead us into the company of those, who will encourage us to continue in the service of Christ. May we be enabled to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our God and Saviour; and in the midst of prevailing unbelief and indifference, to be decided in our Christian principles and in our Christian profession. Lord, help us to walk in thy strength, that we may not only give an early promise of believing obedience, but also may be enabled to continue steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in thy blessed work, for as much as we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Gracious Father, to thee we commit all our dear friends. May they also be spiritual stones in the living temple, and members of that family of which Christ is the glorious Head. Remember, we beseech thee, that church which Jesus purchased with his own blood. Raise up holy men to stand in the breaches of Zion, and to repair the wastes of many generations. O Lord, thou wilt yet appear in thy glory, when thou buildest up thy Zion. Thou wilt regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. Herein have we still cause to rejoice, that thou art the same, and that thy years shall have no end. The children of thy servants also shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee. Graciously hear our prayers, and answer us in mercy, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—Acts x. 25-48.

O LORD God Almighty, who art the Father of mercies, and the God of consolation, we desire to approach thee this evening with reverence, humility, and faith. We bless thee for that new and living way by which sinners can draw near unto God, with acceptance and with comfort. We rejoice that there is a Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who is able and willing to save unto the uttermost all those who come unto God through him. It is our blessed privilege, O Lord, to live in the last days of the Son of man, and to see and hear those things which many prophets and righteous men of old desired to see and hear, but were not so highly favored. We give thee thanks that the middle wall of partition has been broken down, and that we enjoy free access into the holiest of all through the blood of Jesus. Grant us, O Lord, thine all-sufficient grace, to help us to make a due improvement of our blessed privileges. May it not be our condemnation, that light has come into the world, and that we loved the darkness rather than the light, because our deeds were evil. Enable us to listen to thy holy word with the docility of little children, to lay it up in our hearts, and practise it in our lives. May we feel, in sanctified experience, that the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; that the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; and that the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. May thy blessed Spirit open our eyes, to discern the glory and the grace of Jesus Christ. May we be enabled to receive him as Lord of all, the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. Thanks be unto thee, O Lord, for the pure and spotless example of our divine Master; for his cruel sufferings and death, and his glorious resurrection as the first-fruits of them that sleep. May we be brought to feel that he was wounded for our transgressions, that he was bruised for our iniquities, and that the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and that by his stripes alone we can be healed. May we know him in the power of his resurrection, in the fellowship of his sufferings, and be made conformable to his death. Help us frequently to meditate on his second advent as the Judge of all, and to say, in humble faith, Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus. O God of sovereign grace, pour out of thy Spirit upon our souls, that he may quicken us from the death of sin to the life of God. Baptize us with the heavenly baptism, and receive us into the number of thine adopted children. Pour out of thy Spirit upon all flesh, that the nations may be converted unto thee, and that thy scattered people may again be brought home. Bless this family and all who are dear to us by the ties of friendship or of blood. Preserve them and us from all evil, and especially from sin. Support us under every trial, and bring us to thy holy kingdom, for the sake of that Saviour whom thou hearest always. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XIII. XIV. 1-16.

O LORD, thou art the hearer and the answerer of prayer; unto thee shall all flesh come. We must confess that iniquities have prevailed against us: but as for our transgressions, thou wilt purge them away. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. Thou hast been pleased, O Lord, to distinguish us in this distant land of the Gentiles, and to confer upon us many national as well as individual mercies. We thank thee for our many temporal comforts; for the blessings of peace, and the means of national prosperity. And to thee we desire to look up as the source of that spiritual light, in which our fathers have rejoiced, and which we, their children, continue to enjoy. Pardon, O God, the sad misimprovement we have made of thy peculiar favors. Deal not with us as we have dealt with thee. Help us, as a nation, to return to thy service, and to become that people whom thou, the Lord, wilt be pleased to bless. We must confess before thee, the searcher of hearts, that our individual sins have greatly increased the national guilt. We have sinned against the clearest light and the tenderest love. We have sinned against our own convictions, and against the warnings of thy word and providence. In us, that is, in our flesh, there dwelleth nothing good. We are constrained to cry out, O wretched men that we are, who shall deliver us from the body of this death? We are unworthy to approach thy sacred presence, and to take thy thrice holy name into our sinful and polluted lips. But to whom can we go, O living God, but unto thee, thou alone hast the words of eternal life. We rejoice that thou hast established a covenant with Abraham, and his spiritual seed. We adore thy great and holy name, for the wondrous manner in which this covenant was ratified; not with the blood of bulls and of goats, but with the precious blood of thine only-begotten Son, was our redemption secured. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins. Most merciful Father, we earnestly beseech thee, to give us a true and living interest in thy covenanted mercy, and help us, by thy blessed Spirit, to experience the present blessedness of thy people. Grant us, O Lord, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein unto the end. May it be our comfort to know that thy covenant can never fail. Neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Enable us at all times, to have a conversation and a conduct becoming the gospel, and to live in the exercise of Christian charity and mutual forgiveness. Help us to live in much watchfulness and prayer, to repress every vain and presumptuous desire, and to walk humbly with thee our God. Shield us this day, and all who are dear to us, from every danger. May we pass the

time of our sojourning here, in thy fear, and at last meet together in thy heavenly kingdom. Bless, abundantly bless, thy cause, O Lord. May the nations which sit in darkness hear thy voice, and return unto thee and live. May the mountain of the Lord's house be established upon the tops of the mountains, and may all nations flow into it. And may the time at length arrive when they shall join with us in ascribing unto Father, Son, and Spirit, all glory, and dominion, and praise, forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—ACTS XI.

MOST gracious Father, we desire, this evening, to bow down with reverence at the footstool of thy throne. We are encouraged to draw near unto thee, because thou art no respecter of persons. In every nation, him that feareth thee, thou wilt hear, and him that cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out. O Lord, do thou baptize us with the Holy Ghost, that we may be enabled to see our true condition in thy sight. May he discover to us our guilt and misery, and help us to feel that we are poor, and dying, and polluted sinners before the living God. Grant us, we beseech thee, repentance towards thee our God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ. May our sorrow for sin be a true godly sorrow, and our repentance such as shall not need to be repented of. May our faith in the Saviour be real, influential, and permanent, purifying the heart and overcoming the world. We bless thee, O God of consolation, that thou hast provided a Saviour for our souls, in whom we can place our trust. When there was no eye to pity, nor arm to save, thine eye did pity, and thine arm wrought out our salvation. Thou didst so love the world, as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. May we gladly receive the message which thou hast sent concerning thy Son, and rest upon him alone, as the Lord our righteousness. Help us, O Lord, to remember that he came to save his people from their sins, and to purify them unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Give us grace daily to set our affections on the things above, and to acquire the spirit of pilgrims and strangers on earth. May we constantly live in the prospect of his second coming, as the Judge of the quick and of the dead, and be enabled, with humility, to say, We know that our Redeemer liveth, and that he will stand at the latter day upon the earth. We have been called by the sacred name of Jesus, but have too often walked in a manner unworthy of his disciples. We have deeply to lament the coldness of our love to him, who loved us unto death. We have deeply to deplore our many backslidings, and our conformity to the practices of this present evil world. Woe is unto us, that we should have disgraced our Christian name, and grieved our heavenly Master. Revive and quicken us, O God, thou God of our salvation. Enable

us, henceforth, to adorn the doctrine of our Saviour in all things, by a life and conversation becoming it. May we add unto our faith, virtue; to virtue, knowledge; to knowledge, temperance; to temperance, patience; to patience, brotherly-kindness; and to brotherly-kindness, charity. We pray this night for all our dear friends, that thou wouldst bless them; for our enemies, that thou wouldst forgive them, and for our benefactors, that thou wouldst reward them. O Lord, remember Zion; defeat the counsels of all her enemies, and make her the joy of the whole earth. Satisfy her poor with bread, and clothe her priests with salvation, that thy saints may shout aloud for joy; give thy Son the heathen for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. Merciful Father, to thy protecting care we commend ourselves through the darkness of the night. May the everlasting arms be around and underneath us, and may thy statutes be our songs by night as well as by day. Spare us to the light of another morning; and fit us for every duty and every change. These are our prayers, O Lord. In mercy hear and answer us, for the sake of our only and all-sufficient Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XIV. 17-29; xv.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, spared as we have been to see the return of a new day, we would now come and present those bodies which thou hast preserved in health, and refreshed with sleep, as living sacrifices before thee. Quicken our hearts at this time by the gracious influences of thy Spirit, that the flame of heavenly gratitude may be enkindled within us, and that we may be enabled to realize more deeply the magnitude of our obligations to thy unceasing kindness. Lord, how unworthy are we in ourselves of the least token of thy favor! We would remember that all our mercies, temporal as well as spiritual, flow to us from thy rich and sovereign grace, and through him who is thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son. In his name, then, would we at this time present our humble but heart-felt tribute of thanksgiving. May it be accepted in thy sight. And while, O righteous Father, we would render thee praise for thy mercies, we would also, with all earnestness, supplicate thy grace. How multiplied are our needs in this respect! We naturally inherit, each one of us, a heart that is deceitful and desperately wicked, alienated from thy love, full of the seeds of every evil passion, and continually prone to betray us into iniquity. We beseech thee, then, to create in us clean hearts, and to renew within us right spirits. O may thy Holy Spirit be vouchsafed to effect that great moral change in our souls, without which thou hast assured us that we can never enter into thy kingdom. Make us therefore new creatures in Christ Jesus. May we not only be justified by his righteousness, but transformed into his likeness. Clothe us with that

spirit of humility, and meekness, and holiness, and love, which, in the days of his flesh, he so pre-eminently exemplified, and may we be enabled, through thy grace, to become crucified unto the world, and to live more and more with our desires and affections in heaven. Be pleased to take us under thy guidance and guardianship this day. Be aiding to us in the fulfilment of all its duties. Help us to resist its temptations, and let not the enemy of our souls be able to prevail against us. We would desire to recognize thee in all our ways, and to feel that we are continually in thy presence. O Lord, our strength and our refuge, do thou thyself uphold our goings, that we may be made to rejoice always before thee. Dwell in this our family, and be the covenant God of every member of it. Dwell in the families of our friends; yea, become the God of all the families of the earth, bringing them nigh unto thyself through the blood of atonement, and making them heirs of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Comfort all who are in trouble, and may those whose days are about to be numbered, be prepared for death, and judgment, and eternity. Hear our prayers, forgive our sins, and accept of us in the Son of thy love, to whom, with thyself and the eternal Spirit, be glory ever lasting. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ACTS XII.

O THOU who art the God of our lives, and the length of our days, and the giver of every good and perfect gift that we receive, we would, this evening, bow ourselves with the deepest reverence before thee, and call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to bless and to magnify thy holy name. Another week is now about to close upon us, and we come to render unto thee our unfeigned thanks for all its undeserved mercies. Thou hast watched over us in all our goings; thou hast supplied all our wants; thou hast kept our eyes from tears and our feet from falling; and it is because thy gracious hand has every moment sustained us that we are the living still before thee. And blessed be thy name for the daily access which we have had to the counsels and comforts of thy word; for the privilege of communing with thee in prayer and supplication, and for all the glorious and cheering hopes of the gospel of thy Son, by which our hearts have been made glad. Pardon, merciful Father, wherein we have in any respect rendered an unbecoming return for these thy mercies towards us. Alas, how ready have we been to forget the hand from which they have flowed! How prone to sin against thee every hour! Wert thou to set our iniquities and sins in full array against us, we could not answer unto thee for one of a thousand; even our own hearts condemn us, and thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. Have mercy upon us, therefore, O our God, and remember not our transgressions against us. May we be washed, and justified and sanctified in the name of the Lord Je-

sus, and by the power of the divine Spirit. And give us grace, we beseech thee, to live more and more as becometh thy redeemed. May we never be ashamed to confess Christ before men; may we be found to glory only in his cross; may we be ready, if need be, to bear reproach and persecution for his sake; may his love be so abundantly shed abroad in our hearts, that we may not even count our lives dear unto us, if so be that we may be enabled to finish our course with joy. We would rejoice that if called to endure tribulation, thou hast promised to be with us, and to make our very afflictions to work for our good. Thou givest thine angels charge concerning thy people to keep them, and to deliver them, and to lead them at last into glory. Why, then, should our hearts be troubled? We will wait upon the Lord and be of good courage; we will be strong in him, and in the power of his might; we will not fear what man can do unto us; we will believe that over satan himself we shall be made more than conquerors. Take us under thy care, heavenly Father, this night, and if it please thee to spare us to a coming Sabbath, may we be enabled to rejoice in it; may its rest be refreshing, and its services precious unto our souls; and may we meet with thee, and be blessed of thee in the ordinances of thine own appointment. Be gracious to all our friends; forgive our enemies; comfort the afflicted; be near unto the dying. And make Christ's cause to prosper everywhere. Hear these our imperfect prayers, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Twenty-Sixth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXVIII. 25—48.

ADORED be thy name, O our God, that another sabbath has been made to dawn upon us, and that again we have been permitted to come and meditate upon the holy lessons of thy word. We would now entreat thee to impress these lessons upon our hearts, and to make them truly profiting unto us. Help us to come before thee at this time, deeply conscious of our own unworthiness; may we feel, while we confess, that we are indeed of unclean lips, and dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. How multiplied have been our sins against thee! Like thy backsliding and rebellious people of old, we have been prone, under the influence of our natural corruption and unbelief, to turn aside from thee, to prove unthankful for thy mercies, to seek the gratification of our own carnal lusts, to murmur under the righteous dispensations of thy providence, and to flatter thee with our lips, while our hearts have been still estranged

from thee. At this time, then, do we bow ourselves before thee, O thou fountain of all grace, not only to acknowledge that we have thus sinned against thee, and that in us, that is, in our flesh, there dwelleth no good thing; but to implore that renovating power of thy Spirit, by which we may have the corruption that is in us rooted out, and be enabled to mortify the flesh, with all its affections and lusts. Adored be thy name for the promise of the Spirit to begin and carry on a work of sanctification in our souls, and to perfect that which concerns us. Give us, in our blessed experience, to know the fulfilment of this promise. May he enlighten our understandings, purify our hearts, renew our wills, and bring every thought, and affection, and desire into the obedience of the gospel of thy Son. And may we thus be kept steadfast in the covenant of our God, and enabled to let our light shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, may also be led to glorify thee, our Father in heaven. On this holy sabbath, set apart to commemorate the glorious resurrection of our once crucified, but now exalted Saviour, may we have grace given to us to engage in a suitable spirit, in all its sacred and solemn services, whether in the sanctuary, or in the family, or in the closet. May we this day have our fellowship with thee, and with thy Son, Christ Jesus. May our souls be greatly refreshed and comforted in waiting upon thee. O make thyself known to us, even as thou dost unto thine own, and enrich our souls abundantly with the blessings of thy grace. We would entreat thee also in behalf of our brethren. May this be a day whereon multitudes shall be born again unto the Lord, and of whom it shall be said, that salvation has come unto them. And may the hearts of thy saints be more and more established in the faith. For this purpose, bear testimony to the preaching of the word, and the dispensation of ordinances everywhere, giving unto thy servants, the ministers of the everlasting gospel, to declare with all faithfulness the words of eternal life. Lord, we now look up unto thee for all needed wisdom, and grace, and strength. O send us not away empty from thy presence. Bless us, and all the objects of our affections; yea, do thou bless us very abundantly. And we ask all in the name of Jesus thy Son, and our Saviour. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM LXXVIII. 49-72.

O MOST mighty and merciful God, by whose inspiration all scripture has been given, and whose teaching alone is saving and unto profit, be pleased to give us a right understanding, and to help us to make self-application of the solemn truths which we have now been hearing from a portion of thy word. May we see, in the continual proneness of thy people of old to backslide from thee, and to forget all thy mercies, what need we have to watch always, that we sin not in like manner. We would remember that we have hearts in us

alike evil and deceitful, that naturally we are no better than they, and that, if unrenewed by the quickening influences of thy grace, we will be equally ready to be led captive of satan at his will, and to be hurried on in the downward path of sin. O fill our hearts at this time with godly sorrow for all our sins; give us to see sin in its true characters of vileness and guilt; and may we be ready to lay our hands on our mouths, and our mouths in the very dust, and to confess before thee, that we are unclean, and ready to perish. But adored be thy name, that though we have sinned, still there is mercy for us; that though we have all like sheep gone astray, thou hast sent thine own Son, as the good Shepherd, to invite us back to thy fold, and to the full and everlasting possession of that favor which we have forfeited. Eternal praise for this interposition of divine mercy in our behalf! thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift! We will now, believing, look unto the cross of Jesus. We will rejoice that the very guiltiest of us may find grace through him. And we will seek to be found in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith. And that we may be enabled to live as thy redeemed in Christ, we would entreat thee, O our God, to give us grace according to our need, and to bless unto us all the solemn services in which, in this thy holy day, we have been engaged. May these leave a hallowing influence on each one of our hearts, and on the hearts of those who have worshipped with us. Bless the preaching of thy word throughout the church universal. Wherever the name of Christ has been this day named, may men learn to depart from iniquity. Prosper thy Sön's cause in this corner of thy vineyard, and throughout the whole world. Let thy Spirit be poured out both on pastors and people, and let thy work be greatly revived. Accept of our thanksgivings for all the mercies of another sabbath. Forgive our sins and short-comings in duty. Be gracious to us as a family, and make each one of us members of the household of faith. Sanctify thy dealings to the afflicted. Prepare the aged and dying for a coming eternity. Train up a young and rising generation in thy fear, and may they be early led to seek Jesus. May all who are placed in stations of authority, seek to glorify thee in them. And let thy will be done upon the earth, even as it is done in heaven. And now unto the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, one God, be glory, dominion, and praise everlasting. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XVI.

O THOU God of all grace, be pleased to listen to our prayers, and to permit our humble cry to find acceptance with thee. It is through the Mediator of the new covenant that we desire now, and at all times, to come, because we are assured by thy word that he is the

alone way. We know that our services cannot be accepted, neither will our petitions obtain entrance into heaven, unless Jesus be regarded in all that we do and say. And we bless thy name, O Lord, that this is thine own wise arrangement. For in Christ we have one that can be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; one that can sympathize in all the sorrows and tribulations of his people; and one that has all prevalency of intercession in heaven, and all power on earth, to keep his own in their sojournings here below. We earnestly pray, O living God, that the Spirit may give unto each of us a saving interest in the Lord Jesus Christ, making us partakers of his redemption, children of God by adoption, and heirs of the everlasting inheritance. O let us never covet the riches or the dignities of this world, but be satisfied and contented with whatever station thou hast assigned us in the army of the faithful. Forbid, Lord, that we should barter away our privileges, our hopes, our eternal interests, for any advantage whatever that this world can give us; and O give us grace, we pray thee, to form a right Christian estimate of the overwhelming importance of the things of eternity, compared with the things of time, so that whether we be the possessors of a palace or the occupants of a humble dwelling, we may consult the best interests of our undying souls. O thou King of kings, direct all that are seated on earthly thrones, and let not the possession of an earthly crown in any way prevent them from seeking after that crown of glory that fadeth not away. Give thy Spirit and thy grace unto all men. Give the heathen to thy Son for his inheritance. Supply the wants of the poor, the afflicted, and the dying. Reclaim the wandering; satisfy the doubting; enlighten the inquiring soul. We give thee thanks that thou hast opened our eyes to the light of another day. Guide us during the hours of business, of duty, and of trial, this day, and forsake us never, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—ACTS XIII. 1-25.

ALMIGHTY Father, we thank thee that thou didst, in the times of old, send forth laborers into the Gentile vineyard, and in great mercy didst condescend to proclaim the tidings of salvation to those who were afar off. We bless thee this night, that the message of peace and of pardon, through the Lord Jesus Christ, hath reached this distant land of the Gentiles, and hath gladdened the heart of many a sinner; and we give thee thanks on behalf of every one converted unto Jesus; of every one whose soul has been cheered by the promises and consolations of the gospel; of every one who has fought, or may be yet fighting, the good fight of faith. O Lord, do thou lead each one of us, now before thee, to Jesus. Give us all to drink copiously from the fountain which himself hath filled, for the refreshment and salvation of his people. May we thenceforth obtain cleans-

ing, and pardon, and peace. May the Spirit daily enlighten us progressively in the things of Christ, and may each day, as it passes over our heads, find us better prepared for our eternal home. O Lord, forgive wherein we have this day forgotten thee. Every day, and in everything, we offend, and therefore we need thy pardoning mercy, and thy sanctifying grace. Justly, O Lord, mightest thou punish us, even in the very act of committing sin, but we are monuments of thy sparing love. We thank thee, O God, that thou hast appointed in this land thy ministering servants, to proclaim to us the glad tidings of salvation. O let them all be faithful to thee, and to the souls of men. Give them courage, prudence, faith, and love. May Christ be preached by all, and may the gospel have free course, and be glorified. Gather in, O Lord, the dispersed of Israel, and with them the fulness of the Gentile world. Be with all who have gone forth in mission to the lands of idolatry. May they be successful, by the help of the Spirit, in turning sinners from darkness to light. Bless the preached gospel in our own land; let all ranks be living under the influence of the religion of Jesus. Bless all, O Lord, for whom we ought to pray. And now take us under thy charge during the silence of the night, watch over our dwelling, forsake us never, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XVII.

O LIVING God, behold us, as a family, bending down in humble submission at thine own footstool; unto thee, seated on the throne of the universe, would we seek to yield all praise, and glory, and thanksgiving. And at the same time, would we feel our utter unworthiness even to speak to thee in prayer. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for, as a nation, and as individuals, we have all forsaken thee; and there are written in thy book of remembrance our manifold provocations against thee; and we feel the number and the aggravations of our sins to be so great, as to be a thick cloud between thee and us. But yet, Lord, thy mercy is great, thy love to a world of perishing sinners has been wondrously manifested, in giving thine own beloved Son to die for the sins, and to rise again for the justification, of his people. On his all-perfect atonement we rest every hope of acceptance with thee, and of eternal life. And we pray that thou wouldst give each of us an enlarging acquaintance with Christ, a believing, realizing, saving view of the sufficiency, the fulness, the freeness of his salvation. May the Spirit enable us to know more and more of the love of Christ, of his willingness to receive and to save every returning sinner; of the purity, the spirituality, and the extent of his law, and of the necessity of cleaving unto him with an unflinching obedience. And, O Lord, let thy chastening hand upon us, or upon ours, whensoever thou sendest it, bring us always nearer unto thee. Spare our land, good Lord, we

pray thee, from underlying thine anger, because of our national sins. Remember us in mercy. We have sinned, O Lord, we have sinned, and deserve to have our candlestick removed out of its place. But we would plead with thee, to avert thy merited judgments. Turn not away in anger from us. We commend unto thee all whom we ought to bear on our hearts at a throne of grace. Grant to our friends thine abiding friendship, to our enemies thy forgiveness, to the mourners in Zion thy consolation, to the dying the hopes of a blessed eternity. Put an end to idolatry in every heart, and in every land. Let the influence of divine truth prevail. Hear us, O God, and guide us this day, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—ACTS XIII. 26-52.

HOLY Lord God Almighty, we rejoice with joy exceedingly that thou hast revealed Christ as the salvation of sinners, and that although with wicked hands he was crucified and slain, yet thou didst raise him up again from the dead on the third day. Let our souls now rejoice that thou hast accepted his finished work, and that all power is now given to him in heaven and on earth. O may we all find that we have willingly taken Christ to reign over us, and that now he is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Give us, O give us, blessed God, to believe on him to the saving of our souls; to feel that we are crucified with Christ, and that the life we now live in the flesh, is a life of faith on the Son of God. May we have through his blood the forgiveness of our sins, and a title secured to us to the everlasting inheritance. O may the Spirit seal our souls unto the day of eternal redemption, and may it be our happy experience to feel that we have passed from death to life, and are now fairly set out on the road that leadeth to heaven's blessedness. Keep us, O Lord, from the sin of despising Christ, or of neglecting his great salvation; and may we ever bear in mind, that reckoning must be made at the great day. Clothe us with the Redeemer's righteousness, that on the solemn day of judgment we may stand forth before an assembled universe, acquitted, accepted, and saved with an everlasting salvation. O Lord, we would not this night pray for ourselves only, but would entreat thee to visit all men with thy benign salvation. Let every sinner that is yet out of Christ, become the subject of thy saving grace. Establish thine own people. Bless thine own heritage, and build them forever. We commit unto thee, O Lord, those connected with us by the ties of grace or of blood. Suit the influences of thy Spirit to them all. Preserve from dangers, spiritual and temporal. And when thou hast guided each of us through this pilgrimage, O may we be conducted by thy rod and staff, through the dark valley, and admitted, through the merits of our risen Saviour, to all the blessedness of Emmanuel's land. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XVIII.

HOLY and merciful God! who rulest supreme in the heavens, and doest according to thine own will amongst the children of men, thou art infinitely great and good, and of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Whom have we in heaven but thee, and there is none upon earth that we desire besides thee. Thou hast the words of eternal life. We worship and adore thee as the only Lord God. We bless thee for the greatness of thy condescension and love, in raising up for us an horn of salvation in the house of thy servant David; in giving us, poor, sinful, and unworthy creatures, access to thyself through Jesus Christ; and in showing us, so clearly, the true way, that we may walk in it, and find acceptance and favor. O grant us, we beseech thee, thy Spirit: and in purity and holiness, and with increasing zeal, may we constantly persevere in thy service. Bless the nation and the church to which we belong. Cleanse them thoroughly from all idolatry, superstition, and wickedness. Let no enemy, and no unrighteousness, prevail over them to their ruin: neither let thy wrath be kindled against them for any secret offences. And may the rulers of thy people be just, and holy, and ever zealous for the truth as it is in Jesus; and let them enjoy much of thy favor and blessing in the faithful discharge of their important duties. We humble ourselves before thee, under a sense of our great unworthiness and guilt. Our very nature is corrupt. We are ever prone to that which is evil; we often abuse even the tokens and memorials of thy tenderest mercy; and are continually adding to the number of our offences. But, O God, do thou pardon the iniquity of our sin. Heal our backslidings; sanctify our hearts by thy special grace; and let no sin have dominion over us. Enable us, more and more clearly, to apprehend thy mercy in Christ Jesus; and the necessity of being conformed to thy will. Let us not expect to prosper, or be in peace, whilst we venture to transgress in any respect, and are not walking with thee in truth; and O do thou work in us both to will and to do thy good pleasure. Strengthen us also, O Lord, we beseech thee, to resist all our spiritual enemies. May no suggestions of satan; no crafty or malicious insinuations of ungodly men; and no inward workings of unbelief, have power to shake our confidence in thy word. Thou art our rock and our refuge; let us never be ashamed of our hope: but, with a firm and unwavering faith, and a growing ardor of love, may we steadfastly abide with thee, and be humble, and patient, and persevering in the performance of every duty, which, in the course of thy good providence, in our various relations of life, thou hast given us to do. We thank thee for all thy gracious goodness towards us, and for all thy kindness and care, in the exercise of which thou hast kept and brought us hitherto. In safety thou hast kept us during the night. Surround us still with thy favor as with a shield. Be with us through the day. Bless our kindred and friends. Pardon all our offences. And hear us, O Lord, we beseech thee, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ACTS XIV.

O THOU great and glorious God! whose creatures we are, and in whom we live, and move, and have our being, we draw near unto thee, under a deep sense of our own personal unworthiness and guilt; and bless thee for the grace thou hast been pleased to bestow, and for all the benefits of this great salvation. Justly, O Lord, mightest thou have left us to perish. Instead of sending thine own Son to visit and redeem us—to enlighten our darkness, to remove our guilt, and be our leader and commander in the way everlasting, well mightest thou have left us to be filled with the fruits of our own doings, to live in fear and wretchedness on the earth, and at length to die without hope. We rejoice, and are filled with gratitude, when we think of thy great mercy; and most highly would we value and esteem thy word, and all the means of grace, which, by the toils and sufferings of thy faithful servants, thou hast, of old, established in these, as in other, lands. O do thou give us thy Spirit, and lead us in thy truth. Teach us to know thee, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent: manifest thou thyself unto us, as thou dost not unto the world. And, being delivered from spiritual darkness and unbelief, and from all idolatry and wickedness, may we truly and reverently fear thy name, and serve thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. O how corrupt is our nature! and how strong and bitter are the prejudices of the unbelieving heart against thee and thy ways! Men love darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil. They hate and persecute thy people, O Lord, and are utterly unwilling that thou shouldst reign over them. Save us, we beseech thee, from this great sin. Create within us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Let us not, in any circumstances, be carried away with the error of the wicked. Let us not be deterred by any fear of reproach or suffering, from openly acknowledging thee as our God, or from observing all thy statutes and ordinances to do them. May all the difficulties we experience be overruled for our good, and for the furtherance of the gospel, that thy glory may be promoted. And let us not be weary in well-doing; but be followers of them, who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises. We thank thee for all thy goodness, and especially for the suitable help which thou hast given us in the church. May the teachers and rulers, ordained according to thy word, be upheld, protected, and blessed by thy special favor. And whilst we enjoy, with gratitude, the means of grace, and the bounties of thy good providence, wherewith thou sustainest us from day to day, may the work of our preparation for death and for eternity be continually advancing. May the close of every day, as it finds us nearer unto death, find us also more ready and prepared to die. And do thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Hide thy face from our sins: blot out all our iniquities. Take us under thy special protection during the night; and let no evil come near our dwelling. Bless

our relations and friends, and all that are dear to us in the flesh or in the spirit. When we sleep, may we peacefully repose under the shadow of thy wings; and when we awake, may we still be with thee. Hear these our humble prayers: hear us for the Lord Jesus' sake. And to thee, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be all glory, and praise, forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XIX.

O LORD our God! who art glorious in holiness, and fearful in praises, we humbly and thankfully approach thy throne. We worship and adore thee in Christ Jesus our Lord, for whose sake thou art kind and merciful unto us. Thy mercies, indeed, are new unto us every morning, and great is thy faithfulness. Salvation belongeth to thee, and thou only, O Lord, makest us to dwell in safety. In ourselves, we are ever weak and defenceless: both within and round about us, there are many causes of destruction to be feared; but thou surroundest us with thy favor as with a shield; and, owing to thy great mercies, we are not consumed. O what reason we have to bless thee for the care of thy good providence—for the ever-watchful care with which thou protectest us during the hours of darkness and of sleep; and for all the blessings, both temporal and spiritual, which thou givest to be the daily portion of our cup. May we ever remember and deeply feel the debt of obligation under which we are. May we also live to thy glory. And do thou make plain to us the path of duty; and work in us both to will and to do, according to thy good pleasure; that, in just and holy living, we may have great peace, and may obtain a growing evidence of our acceptance with thee. We are strangers and pilgrims on the earth, as all our fathers were. We are often grieved by the wickedness which is everywhere abroad. We feel deeply the reproaches which are cast on thy people. Our souls are wounded by the neglect and contempt of thy truth, which so greatly prevail, and by all the dishonor which is done to thy holy name. Arise, O Lord, we beseech thee, and plead the cause which is thine own. When the enemy cometh in like a flood, O lift thou the standard against him. Stay thou the floods of iniquity and ungodliness. Let ignorance, and error, and idolatry be put away. Let profaneness, and lewdness, intemperance and extravagance have an end. Let the proud boaster have no success against the godly: but may the righteous flourish, and Jerusalem be the joy and praise of the whole earth. We are thy servants, O Lord. Remember us, we beseech thee, with that love which thou bearest to thy people. May we be firmly established in the faith; rooted and grounded in love; and ever found amongst the number that worship thee in the spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. As a family, may we be more and more at one in everything that pertains to life and godliness. May we dwell

together in unity: may we study carefully to avoid every cause of offence; and, in the constant and affectionate discharge of all our relative duties, may we seek to promote each other's welfare, and be at peace among ourselves. And O do thou preserve us in thy fear all the day long. In all the business and intercourse of life, may we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thee. Let nothing tempt us to forsake the way of integrity and truth: and do thou grant us that measure of prosperity which thou seest meet to bestow. But above all things, may our souls prosper, and be in health. Bless our friends and relations, and the whole household of faith. Be merciful to our unrighteousness: blot out all our transgressions; and hear us graciously, O thou hearer of prayer, for Christ's sake Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—ACTS xv.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God! we come before thee this evening to give thanks for the abundant riches of thy grace, in the exercise of which thou hast abounded toward us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessed be thy holy name, that, whilst so many others are yet in darkness and error, laboring under the yoke of bondage, and going about to establish a righteousness of their own, thou hast given us the glad tidings of a free salvation. O enable us to see clearly, and firmly to embrace, the truth as it is in Jesus. Instructed by thy word, may we look away from everything else, unto him who perfectly obeyed the law in our stead, and by whose righteousness alone we are justified. Accept us into favor, O Lord, we beseech thee, for his sake. Grant that by grace through faith we may indeed be saved—saved from the love and practice, as well as from the punishment, of sin. May the grace that bringeth salvation teach us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. And O may it be our great and unspeakable happiness to be received into glory hereafter. Have mercy on those that are yet in darkness, and know not the truth. May the gospel of the blessed God, and the means of grace, be speedily brought within their reach. May their hearts also be inclined to obey. And let the true church in all the earth be enlightened and cleansed yet more and more; protected from the inroads of error, from all superstition, and from every yoke of bondage, which men of ignorant and corrupt minds would impose upon it. Bless that portion of the church to which we belong. Be thou as a wall of fire round about, and the glory in the midst thereof. Let salvation be for walls and bulwarks: and may those whom thou hast appointed to teach and rule, be fitted with thy Holy Spirit. Guide them by thy wisdom, and help them in thy grace: and when they come together to consult and decide in matters that deeply concern the souls of men, let no disturbance arise from the world, the

devil, or the flesh ; but, in meekness of wisdom, and by the unction of the holy One, may they be led into all truth, and armed with power to prevail. Bless the rulers, and all who have just authority over us. May we, as one of the families of thy people, have our sure portion in Israel, and rejoice for the consolation and grace which are brought to us by the gospel. Thou art our God and Saviour, under whose care it is our blessed privilege to abide. By thy good providence, thou hast kept us in being, and helped us thus far in our journey through life. Into thy hands would we still commit the keeping of our souls, and bodies, and all that we have. Watch over us, O thou that slumberest not, nor sleepest ! and let the blessing of thy Holy Spirit keep our hearts and minds. Be kind and merciful to those whom we bear on our hearts before thee. Visit the sick and the afflicted. Prepare the dying for death ; and us for all the trials through which we have to pass. In mercy, hear us in these our humble supplications ; and when thou hearest, forgive and accept ; for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XX.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the holy One who inhabiteth eternity. We are of yesterday. Our foundation is in the dust. We are insignificant and mortal as creatures ; we are ill-deserving, hell-deserving as sinners. Nay, blessed God, we confess that death is the wages of sin. It is as sinners we are mortal. By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin. We know that thou wilt bring us to death. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. O that we were wise, that we understood this, that we would consider our latter end ! In all time of our affliction, in all time of our health, may we hear thee saying to us, as thou saidst to Hezekiah, Set thine house in order for thou must die, and not live ! Even now in the time of health and strength may we prepare for sickness and death. O spare us, that we may receive strength before we go hence and be no more. Preserve our lives, if it be thy blessed will ; but especially save our souls. Sinful and mortal in ourselves, may we be united to Christ for life and salvation. Of thee may we be in Christ Jesus, as made of thee unto one and all of us, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Preserved by thy goodness, may our lives by grace be directed to thy glory. O thou who didst try Hezekiah, to know all that was in his heart, suffer us not to fall into temptation. Leave us not to ourselves. Take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Keep us from being tempted, and support and deliver us when we are. Teach us, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and we shall keep it unto the end. Give us understanding, and we shall keep thy law ; yea, we shall observe it with our whole heart. Make us to join the path of thy commandments ; therein

may we delight. Incline our heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away our eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken us in thy way. May there be peace and truth in our days. In the days of our sovereign, in these the days of our Saviour, may there be abundance of peace. May all become Christians, and may all Christians speak the truth in love, and keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Bless the afflicted; the dying; all near and dear to us; all whom we ought to remember before thee; all who need thy mercy. We thank thee for refreshing sleep. O when we awake from the sleep of death, may we rise to the life immortal, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Our Father which art, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.—2 KINGS XXI

GRACIOUS God! we desire this evening, in our family circle, to worship thee, our Father and our Friend, and to give thee thanks for all the blessings of the day. Thou art the one living and true God. Blessed be thy name for allowing us to meet at the family altar, to supplicate and obtain thy blessing. We bless thee for entering into covenant with Abraham, and saying, I will be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. Whilst we bless thee for Jesus Christ, and pray that in him all the nations of the earth may be blessed, and whilst we beseech thee to grant us individually an interest in the Redeemer, we humbly entreat that thou wouldst bless us as a family. O may there be no wicked Manasseh, no impenitent Amon, amongst us, or those with whom we are connected. May there be no wicked parents of good children, no wicked children of righteous parents. May the root and branches alike be holy. And to this end may we all be in Christ, as living branches of the true and living vine. May the promise be to us and to our children. Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, may we be saved, with our house. O satisfy us truly with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and glory unto thy children. Even though not idolaters, we are sinners, like Manasseh. But we bless thee that he repented. O may we repent with him. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Enable us to say with thy servant of old, Thou art our portion, O Lord: I have said that I would keep thy words. I entreated thy favor with my whole heart; be merciful unto me, according to thy word. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments. For the sake of Him who died that we might live, forgive us all our iniquity, especially the sins we may this day have committed in thought and in deed. We would humble ourselves before thee. O when we pray, do thou be entreated of us and hear our supplication. Save us, we beseech thee. May we know that the

Lord he is God. O grant us repentance towards God, and faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ. Sorrowing for sin, may we yet trust in the Saviour. Esteeming it as a faithful saying, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom we are chief, may we bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Forbid that, like Amon, we should continue impenitent, to perish in our sins. May we be washed, and sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Being made free from sin, and become servants of God, may we have our fruit unto holiness, and our end everlasting life. Bless all whom we ought to remember before thee; all who have none to help them; all the ends of the earth. Take us under the shelter of thy wings this night. Grant us the sleep of thy beloved; and when we sleep with our fathers, may we sleep in Jesus. Hear us for his blessed sake. Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.—ACTS xvi. 1-25.

HEAVENLY Father! we bless thee this morning for the privilege of prayer. And in its exercise may we obtain the blessing. May the means of grace inspire us with the hope of glory. We bless thee for the resistless yet persuasive efficacy of thy Holy Spirit. O thou who wast pleased to open the heart of Lydia, that she attended to the things which were spoken of Paul, be pleased, we beseech thee, to open our eyes to see the wonders of thy law. May we receive thy Holy Spirit, to know the things that are freely given to us of thee. May the Spirit take of the things of Christ, and show them unto us. As we are called externally in the gospel, may we obtain the effectual calling of thy Holy Spirit. Convince us, we pray thee, of our sin and misery, enlighten our minds in the knowledge of Christ, renew our wills, persuade and enable us to receive Jesus Christ, as he is freely offered to us in the gospel. Worshipping thee in spirit and in truth, and receiving thy word of truth, with prayer, and faith, and love, converted unto thee, may we be edified in holiness and comfort, through faith unto salvation. As we have all been baptized with water, may we be born of the Spirit. May we be faithful to the Lord. May we put all our faith and trust in Jesus. May we trust in him both for pardon and purity. We bless thee for showing us the way of salvation. Look thou upon us and be merciful unto us, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name. Order our steps in thy word; and let not any iniquity have dominion over us. May we rely on Jesus, as our prophet, priest, and king, for wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification. Whilst we look to him for mercy to pardon, may we look on high too for might to subdue our sin, and strive in a better strength than our own, even the imparted aid of an almighty arm, to wage with it a constant warfare, till victory declare for grace in the glory of heaven. Deliver us from the evil one. Put thy fear in our hearts, that we may not depart from thee. May

we have the Spirit of Christ, and thus being the sons of God, and the brethren of Christ, if we are destined to pass through tribulation, may we be admitted to serve thee day and night in thy temple. We thank thee for the light of another day. Keep us from sin and danger this day. Lift on us the light of thy countenance. Direct, control, suggest, all we think, or say, or do. May all our powers unite in thy glory. May we acknowledge thee in all our ways, and do thou direct our paths. Bless us and all men, more than we can ask, for the Redeemer's sake. Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ACTS XVI. 25-40.

O LORD our God! we would desire, at the end of another day and week, to approach thy throne. Grant us the spirit of Paul and Silas. And O when we think of the power of religion to support in every situation, forbid that when they were content to sing in a dungeon, we should ever be reluctant to praise thee in our family. But lo! O Lord, another voice than theirs. That voice is thine. Thou speakest in the earthquake, as in the whirlwind. Thy voice divides the flames of fire. Thy voice is full of majesty. O we would think of the methods of thy grace, converting, now in the earthquake, now with the still small voice. However it may be, O Lord, may we be converted. To this end, O Lord, may we be convinced of our sin. May we be in earnest regarding the salvation of our souls. And may we see that we cannot save ourselves. O whilst we say, in anxious and earnest desire for salvation, yet not in the self-justifying spirit of the ruler, What good thing must we do, to have eternal life? may we say, in all the conviction of guilt and impotence, if not with all the alarm of the jailer, What must we do to be saved? We have sinned, and committed iniquity, and done wickedly, and rebelled. O give us a heartfelt sense of sin, in both its guilt and power. Feeling that we are great sinners, may we know and rejoice that Christ is a great and mighty Saviour. May we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be saved. With repentance toward thee, may we have faith towards Jesus. May we put all our trust and confidence in him for salvation. Trusting in Christ, yet seeking to be holy, may we say in faith, We have longed for salvation, and thy law is our delight. Let our souls live, and they will praise thee; and let thy judgments help us. We have gone astray like lost sheep; seek thy servants, that we may never forget thy commandments. Grant us an interest in that twofold redemption from condemnation and corruption which he purchased by his blood, and lives to perfect by his Spirit, and dispose us ever, by thy heavenly grace, to the assiduous pursuit of that holiness which they are equally intended to produce. And, O Lord, with the jailer, may we obtain thy blessing as a family. Believing on Jesus, may thy servant be saved with his house. As we have all been baptized,

O may we be born again; the children of God—a family in heaven. Enable us to rejoice, believing in God, and believing in Christ. Bless our country, our rulers, and the church; the young, the aged, the afflicted, and the dying; our friends, our enemies, and all the ends of the earth. Watch over us this night. May we fear the grave no more than our bed. Raise us in the morning, if it be thy blessed will, and with the light of thy day may the light of thy countenance shine on us. Conduct us by thy counsel while we live. Receive us to thy glory when we die, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ. Our Father, &c.

Twenty-Seventh Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXIX.

O LORD, we humble ourselves before thee, as the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. Thou dost according to thy pleasure in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. Thou woundest and thou healest. Thou castest down and thou raisest up. Thou killest and thou makest alive. Have mercy upon us, O God, for thy mercies' sake, for we are brought very low. Return, O Lord, and let it repent thee concerning thy servants, and restore to us the joy of thy salvation. In wrath remember mercy. Thou didst make man but a little lower than the angels, and didst crown him with glory and with honor. But our glory has departed. Our sins have provoked thy displeasure. We have been justly driven from thy presence, and have been led captive by the god of this world, and by our own evil desires and inclinations. Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned. Heal us, and we shall be healed. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name, and deliver us and purge away our sins for thy name's sake. We thank thee for this day of rest unto the body. May it be a day of rest unto our souls. May we be filled with that peace which the world cannot give nor take away. Though we are in the body, may our conversation be with thee in heaven. We rejoice to know that he who was delivered for our offences, and rose again for our justification, now sitteth at thy right hand making intercession for us. Confirm our faith in him, O God, and grant that our faith may work by love; purify our hearts, and enable us to overcome the world. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from that fear of death, through which many are, all their life-time, subject to bondage. And when we shall have finished our course, grant that we may enter into that rest which remaineth for the people of God. Do thou prepare the

hearts of thy worshippers everywhere for the service of thy house. O send forth thy light and thy truth, let them lead them and bring them into thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacle. Let their praises come up before thee as incense, and let the lifting up of their hands be as the morning sacrifice. And vouchsafe to give the tongue of the learned to them to whom thou hast committed the word of reconciliation, that they may know how to speak a word in season to them that are weary. Draw nigh, O God, to them who share not the joy of those who rejoice because it is said unto them, Let us go up unto the house of God. Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee: according to the greatness of thy power, preserve thou them that are appointed to die. May thy kingdom come. May thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Let these, the words of our mouth, O Lord, and the meditations of our heart, find acceptance with thee through Christ, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM LXXX.

GIVE ear, O God, to our humble prayers. Thou that dwellest between the cherubim, lift upon us the light of thy countenance. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hands of Moses and Aaron; our fathers trusted in thee. They cried unto thee and were delivered. They trusted in thee and were not confounded. Thou didst plant man a noble vine wholly a right seed, but he turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine. We are the corrupt offspring of a corrupt parent. We thank thee, O God, that thou hast not rooted us out as trees which cumber the ground. Thou hast spared us, that we might bring forth fruit meet for repentance. We thank thee for the privileges thou hast bestowed upon us. Thou hast caused those good tidings to be proclaimed in our hearing, which the Son of man came into the world to publish. We thank thee for our sabbaths, and for bringing us to thy holy mountain, and making us joyful in thy house of prayer. How unworthy have we proved ourselves to be of the least of thy mercies. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine upon us and we shall be saved. Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no flesh living be justified. O grant that we may experience the blessedness of those whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is covered. May we be washed, and sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Destroy in us every root of bitterness, and every seed of corruption, and produce in us all the fruits of the Spirit. Forgive, O God, what thou hast seen amiss in the performance of the duties of this holy day. In many things we all offend, and in all we come short of thy glory. Search, we beseech thee, upon our hearts the instructions we have this day received, and grant that we may grow daily in grace and in the

knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Watch over us during the week. Fit us for the discharge of the duties we may be called upon to perform, and prepare us for the trials which may be awaiting us. In thy great mercy, O God, deprive us not of any of our spiritual privileges. Enable us to value them and to improve them more than we have hitherto done. Quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. And being made free from sin, may we have our fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Protect, O God, the church which thou hast planted among us, from the assaults of its enemies. Do thou cause it to take deep root, and to fill the land, that we may sit under its shadow with great delight, and that its fruit may be pleasant to our taste. We pray that thou wouldst communicate to other nations the spiritual advantages we have so long enjoyed. May the time soon come, when ignorance, idolatry, and unbelief shall be rooted out from the earth, and when the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Bow down thine ear, O God, and hear and answer us for the sake of him whom thou hearest always, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XXII.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting Father, we come before thee this morning, to present to thee the tribute of thanksgiving and praise. It well becomes us, O Lord, to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Every day will we bless thee, and praise thy name forever and ever. We bless thee, O Lord, for the place which thou hast assigned to us among the creatures thou hast made. Thou hast given to us more knowledge than the beasts of the earth, and made us wiser than the fowls of heaven. We bless thee for that book in which thou hast revealed to us thy will, and pointed out to us the way of salvation. We pray, O Lord, that our understanding may be opened, so that we may understand the scriptures. May they be profitable to us for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. May we be deeply humbled under the conviction that we are by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou us from secret faults. We disclaim all confidence in our own wisdom, our own righteousness, and our own strength. Our sufficiency is in thee alone. Our hope is in our Saviour, in whom it pleased thee, the Father, all fulness should dwell. O grant that out of his fulness we may receive, and grace for grace. May we obtain redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins, and being justified by faith, may we have peace with thee, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and rejoice in hope of the glory that is yet to be revealed. And grant that the hope which maketh not ashamed may support us under the various trials of life, and constrain us to purify

ourselves even as thou art pure. Enable us, O God, to walk in all thy ordinances and commandments blameless. Guard us from the influence of evil communications. Though iniquity abounds, may our love not wax cold. Deliver us from the evil of our own hearts and from the devices of our spiritual enemies. Give unto us the wisdom which cometh from above, which is pure and peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, without partiality and without hypocrisy, full of mercy and good fruits. Bless, O God, the labors of those faithful men who are employed in building up the walls of Zion. May thy house be a house of prayer for all people. Impress the minds of Christian parents with a sense of the solemn obligations thou hast laid upon them, to bring up their children in thy nurture and admonition. And teach the young to remember thee, their Creator, in the days of their youth, before the evil days come, or the years draw nigh when they shall say, We have no pleasure in them. We commend to thee, Father of mercies, all those who have eaten the bread of tears. Teach them to cast their care upon thee, and enable them to possess their souls in patience. Appoint unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and a garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness. Let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, and establish thou the outgoings of the righteous. Hear, O God, in heaven thy dwelling-place, these our humble prayers, and send us an answer of peace, through Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—ACTS XVII. 1-21.

WHO, O Lord, is a God like unto thee? The heavens declare thy glory. The firmament showeth forth thy handy-work. The things that are made reveal thine eternal power and Godhead. Nor hast thou ever left thyself without a witness of thy goodness, in that thou hast given to us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. We thank thee, O God, that when the foolish heart of man was darkened, and when the world by wisdom knew thee not, it pleased thee to send thy Son into the world, to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. O God, grant that our darkened minds may be enlightened by him in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Give unto us the humility of little children, that we may not lean to our own understanding, but receive with meekness the ingrafted word, that we may grow thereby. O Lord, we acknowledge in thy presence our manifold transgressions. Thou art our Father, and where has been thine honor? Thou art our Master, and where has been thy fear? Thou hast caused the Day-spring from on high to visit us, but our progress in knowledge and righteousness has not corresponded with our means of spiritual improvement. Forgive, O God, the misuse of our time and our talents. May we be washed

from our sins in that fountain which is opened up for sin and for uncleanness. And we pray that henceforward we may be strengthened with all might by thy Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, and that we may be enabled to walk as the children of the light and the children of the day, redeeming the time, because the days are few and evil. Subdue, O God, we beseech thee, our rebellious wills. Purify our sinful desires and affections. Lead us humbly and patiently to acquiesce in all the appointments of thy inscrutable providence, and to say, Good is the will of the Lord. Forbid that we should ever render evil for evil. May the same mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus. And grant that we ever may esteem the riches of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. Prepare us, we beseech thee, for the hour of death. Believing in him who is the resurrection and the life, may we fear no evil. May our latter end be peace. Show mercy, O Lord, to our friends and kindred. May we and they be fellow-workers together with thee, and heirs together of the grace of life. Clothe thy priests with salvation. Let thy saints shout aloud for joy. May that righteousness extend more and more among us which alone exalteth a nation. And do thou hasten the time when we shall no longer need to teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; but when all shall know thee, from the least even to the greatest. Hear us, O God, and accept of our persons and services, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS XXIII.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the God who didst choose thy people the Jews to be the depositaries of thy knowledge, worship, and will. We rejoice that, besides those indications of thy presence, power, and goodness, which abound all around us, thou didst reveal thyself to thy servant Moses, and spakest to the fathers by the prophets. We thank thee for that record which thou hast given us, of thy dealings with thine ancient people. Bless the portion of it now read for our growth in knowledge, in understanding, and the fear of the Lord. Make us to see, from the idolatry and sinfulness of the Jews, that they were chosen and favored by thee in the simple exercise of thy sovereign mercy and free grace. May we perceive and feel, from what we have now read, that, whilst thou art very pitiful and of tender mercy, thou art a God of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and wilt by no means clear the guilty. Give us grace to avoid the sins of thy people of old, that we may avoid their punishment. We are, in many respects, guilty as they were, and are, from day to day, the living monuments of thy mercy. While thy judgments are continually suspended over our heads, O teach and impel us to flee from the wrath to come, unto him who is an hiding-place from the tempest, and a covert from the storm—to him who has borne the sins

of his people in his own body on the tree, and through whom there is hope even for the chief of sinners. Touch our hearts, as in the case of Josiah of old, with a godly sorrow for sin; and enable us, like him, to bring forth fruits which are meet for repentance. May we, in imitation of his example, be zealous for thy glory, and the spiritual good of our fellow men. And O vouchsafe unto us the promise made to him, and its fulfilment, that thou wouldst not take us from the world till thou hast fitted us for leaving it, and till we are ready, let death come when, and in what form it may, resignedly to leave a scene of trouble and sorrow, and to enter into the rest and peace of the Lord. We thank thee for thy preservation of us through the past night, and for the light and the comforts of a new day. Thou art continually bearing with our sins, guarding us from danger, and saving us from death, and giving us time to repent, because thou art not willing that we should perish. O enable us to live under a sense of thy forbearance, and to improve aright the season of our merciful visitation. Take us into thy keeping through this day; fit us for its duties, and its temptations and trials; preserve us from danger and from sin; suit the communications of thy grace to our several states and circumstances; and may the day not pass without each of us making some progress in the Christian life. O send forth thy light and thy truth to enlighten, and to bless, and to redeem mankind. May those in whom we are more especially interested have an interest in thy Son, and in the riches of thy grace. For ourselves we ask the light of thy countenance, and thy favor and friendship, which are better than life. We commend ourselves, soul and body, to thy keeping. Never leave us nor forsake us, and take not thy Spirit from us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—ACTS XVII. 22-34.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Whom have we in heaven but thee, and there is none upon earth whom our spirits should desire besides thee. We are thy people, and the sheep of thy pasture; and thou art continually blessing us, and doing us good. We thank thee for what of thy providential care and kindness we have this day experienced. Forgive the sins of which we have been guilty, in thought, word, or deed, during this portion of time, and hide not thy face from us because of our unworthiness. We are undeserving of the smallest of thy loving-kindnesses. We thank thee, O Lord, for having provided not only for our bodies, but for our souls; not only for our temporal, but for our spiritual wants. Thou hast sent thy Son into the world to save us; and his body has been broken, and his blood shed, for the remission of our sins. O apply unto our souls, by thy Spirit, the benefits that flow from his sacrifice and finished work. Help our unbelief, and grant that we, being justified by faith, may have peace with

God through our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, we bless thee for the light of the gospel, and for the means of grace with which we are so richly favored. While so many of our fellow-beings are yet sitting in heathen darkness, or worshipping thee under superstitious forms, we have been taught wherewithal to approach the Lord, and how to bow ourselves down before the most high God. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. And though not now favored with inspired apostles, we thank thee for the record which thou hast given us of the lives and lessons of those formerly sent—for the holy Scriptures, with the liberty and power of perusing them—and for a living ministry of the word, so beautifully suited to our imperfections and our wants, and to which the promise of thy Spirit is annexed. O enable us duly to estimate, and suitably to improve, the means of grace; and let thy blessing rest upon them for the enlightening, and sanctifying, and saving of our souls. Forbid it, we humbly beseech thee, that thy light should shine into our darkness, while our darkness comprehends it not—that amidst means, and professions, and forms, we should be worshipping a God and a Saviour, whom, savingly, and practically, we know nothing of. Do thou thyself enlighten our darkness. Make us to know thy Son by the sense of this indwelling presence. Teach us to understand aright the glorious doctrines which he has revealed, and sanctify us by thy truth. Enable us to comply aright with the precepts of his word; and, in the discharge of duty, may his Spirit be a light unto our feet, and a lamp unto our path. Make our path to be that of the just, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. And O may we derive a holier zeal, and a more determined perseverance, from perusing, as we have now been doing, the record of the lives and labors of thy servants the apostles of old, who, filled with thy Spirit, so nobly contended for, and obtained, the crown of victory. Give us grace to walk in the footsteps of those who, through faith and patience, now inherit the promises. Supply us with the whole armor of God, and make us conquerors, and more than conquerors, through him that loved us. During the darkness of night, and the insensibility of sleep, we commit ourselves to thy care, for thou carest for us, and thou, the God who keepest Israel, never slumberest nor sleepest. May we awaken to the light of a new day, refreshed by rest, for the cares and toils of this our land of pilgrimage, and invigorated for the better performance of the duties of the Christian life. In darkness and in light, and by night and day, we desire to put our trust and confidence under the shadow of thy wings. Be thou the rock of our salvation, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS xxiv.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the King of kings and as the Lord of lords, who doest according to thy will in heaven above, and on the

earth beneath. Thou art the supreme disposer of events; and though thy way be sometimes in the cloud, in the tempest, and in the great deep, we rejoice in the consoling assurance and persuasion, that thou, the judge of all the earth, wilt do that which is right. Thou hast in every age vindicated the majesty of thy character and the purity of thy laws, by the bared arm of thy vengeance. Thou hast made mankind to feel when they have refused to own that thou rulest in the armies of heaven, and amidst the habitations of men. Thou art a jealous God, who wilt not share thy glory and praise with another. Because thine ancient people provoked thee to anger by their high places, and moved thee to jealousy by their graven images, thou didst deliver their strength unto captivity, and their glory into the enemy's hand. O enable us to love and serve thee, the one true and living God, through the Saviour and Mediator whom thou hast given us. We confess with shame and confusion of face, that, professing ourselves to be thy worshippers, we have not given ourselves to know, to understand, or to seek after thee. Calling ourselves by the name of Christ, we have not devoted ourselves to his service. We follow the thoughts of the imaginations of our own hearts: allowing the world to have dominion over us, and being lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. We worship and serve the creature more than the Creator, who is over all, God blessed forever. O punish us not in thy wrath, but draw us unto thyself with the cords of love and the bands of affection. Turn us, and we shall be turned; draw us, and we will run after thee. Make us willing and obedient in the day of thy power. We rejoice that we have a Surety and Intercessor, with whom thou art ever well pleased and whom thou hearest always. May we be joined to him as our covenant Head, by a true and living faith. May he be formed in our souls the hope of glory, and do thou assimilate us to his holy image. Look upon us in mercy in the face of thine Anointed, and give us the adoption and privileges of thy children. We would know none other save Christ, and him crucified. While others are saying, Who will show us any good? may the language of our souls at all times be, Lord, lift upon us the light of thy countenance. Enable us to count all things as loss, as less than nothing and vanity, in comparison with the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. We bless thee, O Lord, that on this the morning of another day we are in the land of the living, and the place of hope; that we are again privileged to read thy word, and to address thee in prayer. To whom can we go but unto thee, whose goodness is new to us every morning, and with whom alone are the words of eternal life? Give unto us, from day to day, our daily bread; but more especially nourish and refresh our souls by the communication of thy grace. Whilst thou art giving unto us the light of the natural sun, vouchsafe unto us the healing beams of the Sun of righteousness. Shine into our hearts and make us wise unto salvation. O cause thy kingdom to come and thy will to be done on earth. Forgive our enemies and befriend our friends, and fill the world with the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, and joy, and peace. Enable us throughout this day to live in thy fear, and to thy glory and praise; and keep our feet from falling, and our eyes from tears, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ACTS XVIII.

WE rejoice in thee, O Lord, as the hearer and answerer of prayer. We would in all things, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, make our requests known unto thee. Teach us to ask of thee aright, and fit us for receiving the blessings which we implore. Give unto us such a portion of temporal and worldly good as thou knowest to be suitable and convenient for us. But above all, give us the pardon of our sins and the salvation of our souls, and a right to the inheritance of the saints in light. Make us to hunger and to thirst for righteousness, that our souls may be filled out of the abundance of thy grace. Dwell in us richly in all wisdom, and furnish us with the gifts of thy Spirit. As the God of providence, thou hast covered the face of nature with thy benefits; thou preservest man and beast, and bountifully suppliest the wants of every living thing. But do thou teach us, thy rational children, to live under the deep impression of the curse pronounced at the fall, that we are to earn our bread by the sweat of our brow. Enable us to comply with the command of thy word, and to use the means presented to us, in the course of thy providence, for procuring our temporal subsistence. Contemplating the example of our Redeemer and his apostles, may we be diligent in our ordinary callings, while we are fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. O enable us to labor not only for the meat that perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life. Give us grace to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, that all other things may be added unto us. Lord, though we expect not to be favored, like thy servant the apostle, with any visible sign of thy presence, or with the sound of thy voice, do thou at all times vouchsafe unto us the light of thy reconciled countenance, and the joy of thy directing and consoling Spirit. Yea, cause thy Spirit to witness with ours that we are thy children. Lord, we are living in a world of many difficulties and temptations. O prevent the world from having the dominion over us. May we not, like Gallio, be indifferent, either in regard to ourselves or others, to the things that are unseen and eternal. Fill our souls with that wisdom which is the principal thing, and make us to care chiefly for the one thing needful to the soul. Enable us when we vow and promise to thee, to do so in sincerity and truth, and in dependence on thy strength. Make us, like St. Paul, scrupulous in fulfilling our engagements, and let the praise and glory be all thine own. O Lord, we are dependent on the breath of thy mouth. Thou speakest the word and we die, and are converted into our kindred dust. In all our wishes, and intentions, and plans, may we feel our short-sightedness and our weakness. May our language at all times be that of thine inspired servant, If God will. Give us grace to copy the example of Apollos, and to improve the means that we enjoy, in the hope that a larger measure of light and grace shall be given us. Instruct us perfectly in thy way. Fit us for thy service in this present world, and for the enjoyment of thy presence in bliss and glory, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—2 KINGS xxv.

GREAT and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty ; just and true are thy ways, thou King of nations. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy ; for all nations shall come and worship before thee, for thy judgments are made manifest. When we see thy fierce indignation towards individuals and communities, we are taught to stand in awe of thee and sin not. We do homage to thy boliness, thy faithfulness, thy justice, thy power. We tremble for ourselves as a church and as a nation, remembering in how many points we resemble in character thine ancient people. We have, like them, great privileges ; we are, like them, great transgressors. O may we not resemble them in doom. We deprecate thy justly deserved wrath. O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our rulers, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. Truly we are a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers. We would sigh and cry for the abominations in the midst of us ; profane swearing, sabbath profanation, intemperance, impurity, error and vice of all kinds. The enemy cometh in like a flood ; O Spirit of the Lord, lift up a standard against him. Revive, purify, and enlarge thy church. Revive personal and family religion. Excite a spirit of prayer, a spirit of inquiry, a spirit of love, and ardor, and devotedness. Raise greatly the love of piety among thy people. Give us more elevation and warmth of feeling ; more clearness and enlargement of view ; more energy and fervor of action. And for this end, pour forth in larger measure the spirit of all grace. Is not Jesus glorified ; is not the Spirit promised ; is not the world dead in sin ; is not thy church itself languishing ? Thus may we escape the doom which, as a people, we deserve. Thus may each one, through all the degrees of society, study to promote thy glory. Thus may piety, and peace, and prosperity bless our land. And thus, too, may we set an example to all nations of obedience to Christ, the King, who sits on the holy hill of Zion. For all our past mercies, for health and plenty, and the rest of many a quiet night, we bless thee. For the new duties, and trials, and temptations of each successive day, we beseech thee to prepare us. And our duties, and trials, and temptations being at last finished, may we set up our everlasting rest in thy house above, through the merits and mediation of our blessed Saviour and Lord, whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, we equally acknowledge and adore. Amen.

 THURSDAY EVENING.—ACTS xix. 1-20.

WE would acknowledge and worship thee, O Jehovah, in all that fulness of character in which thou art revealed in thy word. We

adore thee as the triune God. Thou art, O Father, together with the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the only living and true God, and we would have thee to be our God. We desire to choose thee, O Father, as our Father; thee, O Son, as our Saviour; thee, O Spirit, as our Sanctifier. We desire to know thee with that special, saving, sanctifying knowledge which thy people, illuminated by thy Spirit, have of thee. We would acquaint ourselves with God, and be at peace with him. Give us to know experimentally the love of God the Father, and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Ghost. Give us, we are especially led to pray at this time, to know experimentally that there is indeed a Holy Ghost. While in words we recognize him, in his person as divine, in his work as the applier of redemption to the soul, let us not be strangers to him in our hearts. May we know him by his dwelling in us, and working in us, showing us the evil of sin, and producing that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation; revealing Christ to us as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world; witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, sanctifying us wholly, and sealing us to the day of Jesus Christ. Descend, O Spirit of life, and light, and peace, and holiness, and abundantly baptize these souls of ours. We would cherish thy motions; we would lay our minds open to them; we would cease to indulge in those frames by which thou art grieved. We cannot live without thee. Too little have we valued thee, and sought thine aid, and therefore are we so low and dull. Wilt thou not enlarge, and quicken, and refresh, and strengthen us? Return and revive thy drooping church. Raise up many faithful men, at home and abroad, boldly to dispute and persuade the things concerning the kingdom of God; and grant that the gospel being preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, signs and wonders may be done in the name of thy holy child Jesus. May we witness the triumphs of the gospel everywhere. May the word of God mightily grow and prevail. May every system of error fall before the claims of truth; and genius, and power, and wealth, unite all their exhibitions, and lay them on the altar of Christianity. Lord Jesus! give us such impressions of thy love, that we shall be constrained to sacrifice everything for thy sake, at thy command. We are thine, and all that we have is thine, and all is too little to recompense thy love. Accept of us and ours, and through thine all-prevailing mediation, may our prayers and all our services be accepted, our sins forgiven, and our souls sanctified. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—1 CHRON. XXIX.

O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, enable us to worship thee with that which is thine own, even with thy grace within us. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. Let the

Spirit itself help our infirmities, and make intercession within us with groanings which cannot be uttered. We thank thee for the many national, and family, and personal blessings which we enjoy. We bless thee for having cast our lines in pleasant places, in a land where we have thy sanctuary, and have heard the glad tidings of salvation proclaimed. We rejoice to think that thou art not confined to temples made with hands, and that thou art present wherever there are true worshippers to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. We pray of thee to bless this household, as of old thou blessedst the house of Obededom, when the ark of the covenant was there. We are, O Lord, no longer our own; we are bought with a price, even the precious blood of our Redeemer. We desire to dedicate unto thee our bodies and our souls, all that is ours, and all that is dependent on us. We have received all our blessings from thee; we desire to consecrate them to thy service. We lament before thee that we have been living unworthy of the holy vocation wherewith we have been called. There is a law in our members warring against the law of our minds. Do thou of thy free mercy in Christ forgive our trespasses, and enable us to grow in grace as we grow in years. In thy hands are the hearts of all men, and thou turnest them as thou turnest the channels of water: do thou turn us, and we shall be turned; change us, and we shall be changed. Dispose us to use the world as not abusing it; and prepare our hearts to devote what wealth thou hast given us to the glory of the great Giver, and of our Redeemer. While in the enjoyment of rich and precious privileges ourselves, we should think of those who are sitting under the shadow of death, and dwelling in the abodes of cruelty. Send forth laborers to the harvest, and builders to raise thy spiritual temple. Add daily to the church of such as shall be saved, till incense and a pure offering rise as from one temple from all nations of the earth. We pray for our President, and all in places of authority. We pray for the sick, the dying, and the aged, that their names may be found written in the Lamb's book of life. We are all here pilgrims and strangers, as were all our fathers. Enable us to set our affections on things above, and live in the hope of a glorious immortality. We thank thee for the footsteps of the flock, the elders who have obtained a good report, and who, being dead, yet speak unto us. Enable us to follow them as they followed Christ. To us to live may it be Christ, and to die great gain. All that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—ACTS XIX. 21-41.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, before committing ourselves to the helplessness of sleep, we desire to commit our bodies and never-dying souls to the care of the great Shepherd of Israel, who neither slumbers nor sleeps. Do thou give refreshing sleep to our bodies,

the influence of thy Spirit to our souls. If it should be thy will to spare us to a new morning, may our first and best thoughts be of thee. Early will we seek thee, that we may rejoice in thy love all the day. We thank thee for sparing us during the past day amidst the sins we have committed, our ingratitude, folly, and provocations. We lament before thee over the natural enmity of our heart towards God, and our indifference to the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. We have too often, by our sins, been bringing reproach upon the cause of Christ, and causing the enemy to blaspheme. O Lord, our hearts are deceitful above all things, do thou teach us to know ourselves, and the iniquities that prevail against us, and the sins that do more easily beset us. Give us to see ourselves as thou seest us, and to know ourselves as we are known by thee, the Searcher of hearts. Cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God. We rejoice to think, that we have, in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, all we stand in need of,—a balm for every wound, a comfort for every sorrow, a hope for every despondency, and a very present help in time of need. Trusting in thy promises, we will come and prove thee, and see if thou wilt not open the windows of heaven and pour down a blessing, so that there will not be room to receive it. Supply all our deficiencies out of the fulness that is in Christ. Wherein we are weak, do thou make us strong; wherein we are in darkness, lead us unto marvellous light; what time we are in perplexity, lead us to the rock that is higher than we are. We desire to admire the wisdom and goodness of God in his dealings towards his church and people. We bless thee because thou hast given some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. We bless thee for having brought the glad tidings of salvation to us, even to the distant land in which we live. We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their day, in the days of old. Awake, awake, put on strength. O arm of the Lord, awake as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. We pray for those who set themselves against the extension and purification of the church. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. Arrest the wicked and the gainsayer by that grace which changed the persecutor into an apostle. Let thy kingdom come, let thy will be done; let it be done over all the earth, and let it be done in our hearts. All that we ask is for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—EZRA I. III.

FATHER of mercies, we would now call on thy name with thanksgiving; and met together as we now are before thee on the morning of another day, we give thee thanks for all thy great and long-continued care and kindness towards us. We thank thee for the pro-

tection and refreshment which thou hast afforded us through the past night. We thank thee for health, and understanding, and friendship, and freedom, and peace, and all the other blessings of our temporal condition. And O! we thank thee that thou gavest thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but should have everlasting life; that thy holy word has brought the message of salvation to our ears, and that whosoever will, may take of the water of life freely. God of salvation, grant that the privileges for which we praise thee, we may rightly use, and that, by the merits of thine atoning Son, we may enjoy the glorious blessings which he has purchased and procured for men. Being justified by faith, may we have peace with God. May we walk, day by day, in the light of thy countenance, and in thy favor may our horn be exalted. In our case, as in the case of all true believers, may the faith which justifies, prove a faith which sanctifies. May it induce us to resist the temptations to which we are exposed, to avoid the sins to which we are prone, and to seek, in a patient continuance in well-doing, glory, honor, and immortality. And in connection with Christian faith and Christian holiness, may our hearts be comforted and refreshed with Christian peace. Grant us even now the foretaste and earnest of the glory yet to be revealed. And receive us, at the last, to that inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled, and which fadeth not away. Meanwhile, bless to our use the dispensations of thy providence, the ordinances of thy worship, and the instructions of thy word. May that portion of scripture which we have now heard, be impressed by the Holy Spirit on our minds. Excite our hearts, by means of it, to greater ardor in thy cause. And while we yield thee the unworthy offerings of our contributions, our efforts, and our prayers, establish thou upon us the work of our hands; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Assist us in the duties of this day, guide us amidst its difficulties, defend us from its dangers, and render its experience useful to our souls. Bless all others whom we are bound to commit to thy care and mercy, and grant that, in the intercourse of life, we may do good, as we have opportunity, to all men. Hear us, Almighty God, in these our prayers, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed blessing, and honor, and glory, and praise, forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ACTS XX.

KING eternal, immortal, and invisible, at the close of another day we bow before thine uplifted throne; and while we make mention of thy greatness, we would also celebrate the riches of thy grace. We thank thee that, although we have so often forgotten thee, thou hast constantly remembered us, and that, notwithstanding our great unworthiness and sin, thou hast brought us in health, and peace, and

safety, to the present hour. And we thank thee, also, that to the common bounties of thy providence, thou hast added so many great religious privileges, by the diligent and faithful use of which we may obtain those spiritual blessings which make provision for the immortal soul, and are as immortal as the soul itself. That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, that the gospel has reached our dwelling, that all scripture is given by thine own inspiration, and that prophets, apostles, and pious ministers, have shown us the way to heaven, we owe to thy great and undeserved goodness; and for these and all thy benefits we magnify thy name. O may we believe in Christ to the saving of our souls. May we receive the gospel, by faith, in all its consolatory and sanctifying principles. May thine inspired word prove profitable to us for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. And may thy ministers see the fruit of their labors in the spiritual improvement of our souls. Dispose us to humility, and to confess, when we have done all, that we are unprofitable servants. May we serve the Lord with all humility of mind, and seek for the pardon of the great and many sins which degrade and defile even our best performances in the riches of thy saving mercy, and the atonement of thine incarnate Son. Forgive the transgressions which we have committed against thee this day. Protect us this night from evil, and raise us up, if such be thy holy will, to the light, and duties, and enjoyments of another day. Regard in mercy our relatives and friends. According to their ages, their characters, their circumstances, and their wants, let the communication of thy mercy be. Be gracious to the sick and the sorrowful. Lead them to thyself as the God of all comfort, and grant that the winds and storms of this troubled life, may make them cling the closer to the Saviour's breast. Bless the whole family of living men. Let thy way be known on the earth, thy saving health among all nations. Answer us, we pray thee, Father of mercies, in these our unworthy petitions, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Twenty-Eighth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXXI.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God, give us grace to approach thee now and at all times with holy reverence, and yet with filial confidence and love. We acknowledge thee as our strength, and thank thee that while, by reason of our numerous and aggravated sins, thou mightest have employed thy resistless power to de-

stroy us, thou hast preserved us in the midst of all the dangers to which we have been exposed, and brought us in peace and safety to the beginning of another week. For all thy long-continued kindness towards us, make us sincerely and devoutly thankful; and O convince us that we have especial cause to praise thee for the blessings of the Christian salvation. Dispose us this day, both in thy public courts, and in our private dwelling, to celebrate the riches of thy saving grace. And grant, O God, that we may not only praise thee for the spiritual and eternal blessings of the gospel, but also lay hold of them for our own souls. Convince us of their value, by giving us the personal experience of their suitableness to our own condition. Remove our shoulder from the burden which sin and satan have imposed. Raise us from the degradation and defilement of our natural estate. Dispose us to bear the yoke of Jesus, and grant that we may find it easy. May we rejoice to serve thee, and in keeping thy precepts may we find a great reward. May we delight to hear thy voice and to do thy will, whether thou speakest to us from the secret place of thunder, or from the peaceful heights of Zion. May we yield our minds to the doctrines of thy holy gospel, and be stirred to gratitude by the faith of its blessed truths. May we diligently keep thy holy commandments. Enable us to engage this day with holy ardor in the public and private duties of the sabbath. Assist thy ministers, and help us, and our fellow-worshippers, to serve thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. Feed us with the finest of the wheat and with honey from the rock. Bless thy church, whether at home or abroad. May the sabbath be a joyful day in all her dwellings, and may those to whom as yet it brings no tidings of God, and Christ, and heaven, be visited with thine enlightening and regenerating grace. To these our imperfect prayers, grant, O Father of mercies, a favorable answer, through the merits of thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS LXXXI. LXXXIII.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all comfort, on the evening of thy holy sabbath, we give thee thanks for the great and many blessings which, in the course of it, we have received from thee. Even for the common bounties of thy providence we praise thee, acknowledging that we are less than the least of all thy mercies, and that it is because thy compassions fail not that we are not consumed. But more especially we praise thee for the provision which thou hast made by Jesus Christ, for the spiritual and everlasting welfare of our souls. Blessed be thy name that we have this day had an opportunity of enlarging and deepening our acquaintance with the method of salvation, and of participating in the glorious benefits which it reveals. O follow with thy blessing the sacred services in which we have been engaged. From this time forward may we live

more like the children of God and the disciples of Jesus Christ. May we walk by the faith of the Son of God. May we live in the practice of all the virtues of the Christian character, and may the peace of God keep our hearts and minds by Christ Jesus. In the various relations of life in which we may stand, may we adorn thy doctrine. And at the last, in thine own time and in thine own way, may we exchange a course of usefulness on earth for a glorious immortality in heaven. Bless the services of this day, not to ourselves only, but to others also. O may many who rose this morning impenitent and unbelieving, retire to rest this night in favor with thee and in peace with all; and may those who have this day heard thy holy word, be enabled to carry its lessons into practical application to their future lives. Bless our rulers and our father-land. May thy servants, exalted to so high and responsible a charge, be guided by thy counsel, and protected by thy power. May piety and wisdom regulate the deliberations and decisions of our national councils. May our magistrates and judges habitually act as under thine omniscient eye. May our rich men be liberal, and our poor contented. Train the young to useful knowledge—train them to Christian faith—train them to everlasting life. And grant that all classes of the community may fear God, believe in Jesus Christ, and be subject to principalities and powers, not only for wrath but also for conscience' sake. Visit the afflicted with thy sanctifying and consoling mercy, and dispose us to regard their case with Christian sympathy. Send thy gospel forth throughout the world, and stir up thy church to contribute more liberally, to pray more fervently, and to labor more zealously, for the extension of thy kingdom and the triumph of thy cause. Arise, O God: inherit all nations. Defend us this night from danger; pardon our sins; and hear us in these our unworthy prayers, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us thus to address thee: Our Father, &c. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—EZRA V. HAGGAI I.

O LORD, we bless thee for another opportunity of coming into thy presence, that we may pour out our hearts before thee. We thank thee for thy kindness in bringing us through the past night, and for permitting us to see the light of a new day. We acknowledge that it is of thy mercies that we are in the land of the living and in the place of salvation. Thou mightest justly have cut us off as cumberers of the ground. We acknowledge our great unworthiness. Our iniquities have been many and great, and thou mightest have made us monuments of thine everlasting displeasure at sin. But ever blessed be thy name, that when we deserved wrath thou didst remember and visit us in mercy. Thou hast spoken unto us by thy Son from heaven, with a voice of love. We rejoice that his message of peace and reconciliation has been addressed even unto us. For-

bid, O God, that we should ever despise the riches of thy grace. Thou hast testified in thy dealings with thine ancient people how sin subjects to thy displeasure; how it causes thee to stretch forth thine arm in punishment; that though for their disobedience to thee thou wast pleased to carry them captives from their own land, yet thine anger did not continue against them forever. When the time which thou hadst set in thy purposes of mercy, and which thou hadst declared by thy prophets, was come, thou wast graciously pleased to bring them back to their own land, that they might again rear thy temple which had been destroyed, and serve thee in the ordinances which thou hadst appointed for their observance. Heavenly Father, enable us to receive instruction from their example. Help us diligently to improve the means of grace and the ordinances of religion with which thou hast so abundantly favored us—to read thy holy word, to sanctify our sabbaths, and to wait upon thee in thy house of prayer. O forbid, that, by our abuse of the means of grace, we should ever provoke thee to withdraw our candlestick out of its place. But may we be ever careful to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; so that hereafter we may have an abundant entrance into his everlasting kingdom. Confirm, O Lord, we beseech thee, every good and holy impression which may yesterday have been made on our hearts; whether in waiting upon thee in secret, or in private, or in public. Graciously be with us this day. Enable us habitually to realize thy presence, and to walk as seeing thee who art invisible. In every difficulty do thou guide us by thine unerring wisdom; under every temptation, do thou uphold and strengthen us by thine almighty power. Mercifully be with all whom we ought more especially to remember before thee. Bless our fellow-men everywhere, with all temporal, but especially with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. Extend, we beseech thee, the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour until it fill the whole earth, so that all nations may see the salvation of our God. Hear our prayers, and accept of us graciously, for Christ's sake Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—ACTS XXI.

O LORD, we desire to come into thy presence with reverence and humility. Thou art infinitely exalted above our highest conceptions. Heaven is thy throne, and the earth is thy footstool. Thou art present everywhere throughout the universe, beholding the evil and the good. But we rejoice that, though thou be highly exalted, thou hast graciously condescended to look down upon us, the fallen children of men, with an eye of compassion. Thou hast revealed thyself to us as a God of love. We rejoice in the assurance, that thou hast so loved the world, that thou hast given thine only Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Herein, indeed, is love, not that we loved God, but that he

loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Enable us, heavenly Father, now to approach thee through him, as our Mediator, and do thou love us freely and accept of us graciously. Lift on us, we beseech thee, the light of thy countenance, reconciled and gracious in him. May the love of Christ constrain us to live not unto ourselves. Enable us to carry it about with us, and habitually to manifest its operation in our lives. May our light so shine, that others, seeing our good works, may glorify thee our Father who art in heaven. O forbid, that we should at any time so forget or violate our obligations to our Redeemer, that the world should have any room to doubt or disbelieve our Christian character. But through good report or evil report, may we be the followers of Christ, accounting it but a small matter to be judged by men. We acknowledge, O Lord, that sin and imperfection cleave to our best services, and that, wert thou to mark our iniquities against us, we could not answer thee for one of the many thousand transgressions with which we are chargeable. We come, beseeching thee, that wherever we have done iniquity, thou wouldst enable us by thy grace to do so no more. Let us never be satisfied with any present attainment, but may we be pressing forward to the mark set before us in the gospel, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who, for the joy of our salvation, endured the cross, despised the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of God. Being led by his Spirit, animated by his promises, and rejoicing in the prospects of blessedness, which he has set before us, may we be enabled to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. We thank thee, O Lord, for thy kindness to us through this day. Though we have often been unmindful of thee, thou hast never been unmindful of us, to bless us and to do us good. Thou hast watched over us amidst many dangers. Thou hast upheld us amidst much weakness. We beseech thee to be mercifully with us through this night. Keep us in thy fear. Surround us with thy favor as with a shield, so that no evil may come nigh unto us. When we awake may we be still with thee. Be graciously present with our fellow-men everywhere, but especially with those in affliction. Be unto them a God of grace and consolation. Spare lives that are useful, and prepare the dying for death, for judgment, and for eternity. May the Sun of righteousness arise and shine yet more and more, so that his light may cover the whole earth, and all nations see the salvation of our God. Hear, Father in heaven, these our humble supplications, and do unto us beyond what we are able to ask, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—HAGGAI II.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who only hast immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath

seen nor can see. Thou art surrounded with myriads of angels and glorified spirits, who cease not, day nor night, to celebrate thy glory. Unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb that was slain, they ascribe glory, and honor, and dominion, and power, forever and ever. We rejoice, O Lord, that unto us, the sinful children of men, upon the footstool of this earth, thou permittest to unite with them in celebrating thy glory. We rejoice to know that Jesus is seated at thy right hand, as a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, and that we are encouraged and invited to draw near unto thy throne in full assurance of faith in his blood. Help us, O God, now to approach thee through him, as our Mediator, with hope and confidence in thy favor, as children to a father. When we draw near unto thee, do thou enlarge the desires of our hearts. Do thou impress us more and more deeply with the sense of our wants and necessities, and of the fulness, and blessings which thou hast treasured up in Christ, and which thou hast promised to communicate abundantly to the heirs of salvation. Forbid, O Lord, that we should be straitened in ourselves, when we are not straitened in thee. Enable us to come hungry and thirsty into thy presence, and do thou supply us abundantly with the bread and water of life. We rejoice that thou hast never at any time left thyself without a witness to thy church, and thou art a God who keepest covenant and delightest in mercy. Though thine ancient people departed from thy commandments, thou wast not willing that they should remain at a distance from thee, and perish in their sins. Thou wast mindful of thy covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that in their seed all nations of the earth should be blessed. When their posterity had sinned, and thou hadst brought them to a sense of their sin, thou wast graciously pleased to return unto them and speak unto them in kindness and mercy. We rejoice in all the gracious promises which thou hast made to thy people in former ages, that though thou didst predict the revolution of nations and kingdoms, yet thou didst promise that the Desire of all nations should come, who would make the glory of thy latter house to be greater than of the former, notwithstanding all its external magnificence. And we rejoice to know that the promise which thou didst make has been fulfilled, in the coming of Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son, into our world in the likeness of sinful flesh. We desire now to rejoice before thee in all that he has done and suffered, or is now doing, at thy right hand as our Mediator. May we have redemption through his blood. May our hearts be purified by faith in him. May his Spirit dwell richly within us, and enable us to bring forth in our lives the peaceable fruits of righteousness unto life eternal. Go with us to the duties of this day. May thy love be in our hearts, and do thou strengthen us inwardly with thy might. O help us, heavenly Father, to spend this day as not knowing but it may be our last in this world. Accept of our united thanksgivings, for all thy kindness to us hitherto, and enable us ever to live as the children of thy mercies; and all that we ask is for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—ACTS XXII.

O LORD, we worship thee as a being possessed of every possible excellence. Thine existence is eternal, and thine essence is immense. Thy holiness is unspotted, and thy justice is inflexible. Thy mercy is infinite, and we rejoice in the assurance, that thou delightest in its exercise to the fallen children of men. We would therefore now take encouragement to approach thee. We acknowledge that, in ourselves, we have no claim to thy friendship, for we have sinned against thy times and ways without number. Which of thy commandments have we not broken? Which of thy laws have we not violated in the imaginations of our hearts, in our words, and in our actions? Thou mightest justly have left us to suffer the punishments threatened against the transgressors of thy law. But we rejoice that thou hast revealed thyself unto us in Christ Jesus, reconciling a guilty world unto thyself, and not imputing unto sinners their trespasses. We desire, O Lord, now to draw near unto thee through faith in his blood. We come not in our own name, and we plead not our own righteousness for acceptance. But we come in the name of thy beloved Son, and we plead his righteousness, and his only. We come beseeching thee to be merciful for what he has done and suffered, and what he is now doing at thy right hand. For his sake, we beseech thee, to blot all our iniquities out of the book of thy remembrance, and love us freely and accept of us graciously. Lift on us the light of thy countenance, and visit us abundantly with the blessings of thy salvation. We would now take encouragement to approach thee on account of the many manifestations of grace which thou hast made to thy church in former ages. We would especially give thee thanks for thy gracious dealings to thy servant who was commissioned to preach thy gospel to the Gentiles. We rejoice in the testimony which thou didst enable him to give to the sovereignty of thy love, in bringing him from darkness to light, and in changing him from being an instrument of cruelty to thy people, to be a chosen vessel for delivering many from Jewish unbelief and heathenish superstition, and enabling them to believe in Jesus Christ as their only Saviour. In the conversion of thy servant may we be led to reflect with admiring gratitude on the unbounded mercy of the Redeemer, who extends salvation even to the chief of sinners. May we thus be encouraged more and more to commit our souls unto him, being assured, that however numerous and heinous our transgressions, the love of our Redeemer is infinite, and that his blood cleanses from all sin. Enable us now to commit our souls afresh into his hands, as unto a faithful Creator, being assured that he will keep that which we have committed unto him against that day when he will present us faultless in the presence of his Father, with unspeakable joy. We thank thee, O Lord, for thy merciful preservation through this day. By thy good hand we have been supported amidst all our unprofitableness and unworthiness. We

beseech thee to be merciful with us through this night. Be our guide even unto death, and when thou art pleased to remove us from this earth, may we be exalted to reign with our Redeemer in his kingdom above. These blessings which we ask for ourselves, we beseech thee to bestow on all our brethren of mankind. May our friends enjoy thy friendship; our enemies, if we have any, do thou forgive; our benefactors, do thou reward. Bless our native land in all its privileges, temporal and spiritual. Bless thy church which thou hast planted in it. Build up the walls of our Zion, and may they prosper who love her. May she yet be a joy and a praise in the whole earth. Dwell graciously in this corner of thy vineyard; may it be a well-watered garden, in which thou dwellest, and bringest forth abundantly the fruits of righteousness. I pray, O Lord, we beseech thee, these our humble supplications, and direct us beyond what we are able to ask or think, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—EZRA VI.

O LORD God, we are ever prone to go astray. We are sinful creatures, having no plea to utter before thy throne but thy mercy; and wert thou not to direct and strengthen us, we should fall a prey to temptation, and depart from thy will. O do thou, therefore, at all times, be at our right hand, that we may walk before thee as thy obedient children. Help us, we beseech thee, according to our means and opportunities, to be serviceable in promoting the interests of thy Zion. Let these be revived in our day; and let a blessing descend on all, both at home and abroad, who have them at heart, and are engaged in advancing them. The residue of the Spirit is with thee, Almighty and most merciful God; and though discouragements attend us on every hand, we do not despair. In thine own time and way the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and we, thy servants, will praise thee for the greatness of thy power. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. We offer up to thee our thanksgivings that thou art still sparing and blessing us. We deserve not thy mercies. The recurrence of them, in the midst of our ingratitude, humbles us deeply. Deal not with thy servants in judgment, we entreat thee. As we separate for our duties this morning, may thy presence go with us, and let us be returned here in security from temptation and danger. Hear our prayers for those with whom we are united by the ties of relationship, or friendship, or gratitude, as we beseech thee to hear their prayers for us. Thou knowest our several necessities better than we do ourselves. Suit thy grace to all these. May thy peace reign in this dwelling. May it take up its abode in every heart. And may we, who are wont to meet here from day to day on earth, meet before thy throne in heaven, washed and sanctified by the blood of thy Son. Our prayers are before thee, O Lord God. Hear

them for the sake of him whom thou hearest always. And to thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be all praise ascribed forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ACTS XXIII.

EVER-BLESSED be thy name, Almighty Father, that we are permitted and encouraged, at all times, to draw nigh unto thee. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders; but thou art, nevertheless, our God and our friend, through thy Son. He is now at thy right hand, having opened a way for us to thy throne, taking our petitions from us to present them to thee, and commending them with the interest of a personal experience of our wants. We are sinners, O thou Searcher of hearts. It is natural for us to sin; and every day that passes by but discloses to us how grievously and constantly we sin. We repair anew, therefore, to the fountain opened for uncleanness and guilt, which, we bless thee, is ever flowing. Wash thou us, and we shall be pure. Let our repose this evening be that of thy beloved, at peace with thee, with themselves, and with the world. Thy mercies, O Lord God, are new to us every morning and every evening, meeting us in a variety of forms, vouchsafed to us notwithstanding our ingratitude. O may a sense of them be deeply impressed on us. It is of thy grace, most compassionate Father, that any of us are made to differ from others; and we give thee the praise, if, in any measure, we live as thy servants. But inconsistency is continually discovered by us, and we need, therefore, habitually to look to thee for light to guide, and strength to uphold us. We desire to thank thee, that in the path of duty we may reckon upon thy watchful care; but may we never turn aside from it, and, in all respects, may we adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, giving honor to whom honor is due, and cultivating whatsoever things are honest, and lovely, and of good report. May magistrates and rulers rule in thy fear. May we obey them for conscience' sake. Prepare us, we beseech thee, for whatever thou hast prepared for us; and whether we awake in time or in eternity, may we still be with thee. O Lord, hear, O Lord, forgive, hearken, and do. Defer not, for thy name's sake, and answer these our prayers, not according to our imperfect desires, but according to the exceeding riches of thy glory, for the sake of thy Son our Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—EZRA IX. X. 1-17.

O OUR God, we are ashamed, and blush to lift up our faces to thee, O God; for our iniquities are increased over our heads, and our trespasses are grown up to the heavens. Since the days of our

fathers, have we been in great trespasses unto this day, and for our iniquities hast thou been pleased to chastise us from to time, as nations, and families, and individuals. And now, for a little space, art thou sparing us, remembering mercy in the midst of deserved wrath. And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments which thou hast commanded us, requiring of us perfect obedience to thy laws, separation from the principles and practices of an evil world, a regard to thy glory in all we do, even the minutest actions of life. And after all that is come upon us, for our evil deeds, and for our great trespasses, seeing that thou, our God, hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast visited us with so much compassion, should we again break thy commandments, wouldest not thou be angry with us, that there should be no escaping? O Lord God of Israel, thou art righteous, for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day; behold we are before thee in our trespasses. Pardon us, good Lord, we beseech thee, and impart to us thy Holy Spirit, that we may see clearly the path of duty, that we may be kept from falling, and live to thee. We have laid ourselves down, we have slept and awakened, for thou the Lord hast sustained us. Known unto thee are the duties we have this day to perform, the trials we may be called to endure, the dangers and temptations to which we may be exposed. But we place ourselves in thy holy and safe keeping. The Lord is our light and our salvation, whom shall we fear? the Lord is the strength of our lives, who shall make us dismayed? Be with us in our going out and coming in. Let no evil come nigh our dwelling. Give to us a deeper insight into the deceitfulness of our hearts. Quicken us in the way of life. May Christ be increasingly precious to us, and may each day find us advancing in our course; that going on from strength to strength, every one of us may at length appear before the Lord in Zion. Bless all who are near and dear to us. Reward our benefactors. Have pity on our enemies, if we have any, and help us to forgive them. Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee. Succor the tempted. Comfort the afflicted. Pour into their wounded spirits the balm that is administered by a Saviour's hands, which, reaching the springs of sorrow, alone effectually removes it. Let thy way be known upon the earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee. Receive our thanksgivings, hear our prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—ACTS XXIV.

GOD of the families of all the earth, we are again, this evening, through thy providential kindness, assembled around our family altar. Another day has passed by, bringing us so much nearer to death and eternity, and do thou forbid that any of us before thee

should be putting off the concerns of our souls. Deepen and strengthen our convictions, we beseech thee. May we resolve, by thy grace, to follow up these, and, in this the day of our visitation, to seek reconciliation with thee. May we have always a conscience void of offence, both towards God and towards man. May we do no things, and go to no places, in which we would not like death to find us. Thus, as we repose for the night, may we anticipate that hour at which we shall sleep the sleep of death. We bless thee, O Lord God, that Christ hath risen indeed. May we rise with him to newness of life, and thus possess the pledge that, on laying aside the garments of mortality, this corruption shall put on incorruption, this mortal, immortality. We would make confession of our sins in thy presence, holy Lord God. Sins against light and warning, and mercies; sins that are numerous as the sands on the sea-shore. But though we are humbled, we are not discouraged on account of these. We have an Advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ the righteous. His name we plead. On his sufferings and death we depend. May we be found of him, not having our own righteousness. Create in us clean hearts, O God. Renew right spirits within us. Make us altogether such as thou wouldest have us to be. We bless thee for the unspeakable gift of thy Son. We bless thee for food, and raiment, and protection. We bless thee for the reading of thy word. Impress its truths on our hearts. Grant that it may be circulated in all languages, and its privileges known among all nations. Revive thy work in the midst of us, O God. Let thy statutes be our song in this the house of our pilgrimage. Hear us when we call upon thee, for the sake of thy Son, who, in condescension to our infirmities, hath taught us thus to pray, Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.—NEHEMIAH I.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, on the morning of another day enable us to draw near to thee with reverence and devout affection. Day unto day uttereth speech of thee. Night unto night showeth knowledge of thee. We close our eyes under thy protection; we open them to behold thy goodness. O let us never forget from whom it is that all our blessings flow; but may we recognize thy mercy and thy loving-kindness, in the food we eat, the air we breathe, and the raiment which clothes us; in the preservation of our faculties, and the continuance of our comforts; in the recurrence of every season, in the restored light of every morning; but above all, in the long-suffering mercy and grace to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We acknowledge our unworthiness of the least of thy mercies. O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant, and mercy for them that love him, and observe his commandments,—we, too, have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judg-

ments, which thou commandest thy servant Moses. We are offenders in thought, word, and deed. We are transgressors by the omission of duty, and by the commission of sin. And there is no help in us. But we rejoice to know, that where sin abounded, grace much more abounds. We plead thine own promise, Whoso cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out! Lord, we come,—we would return to thee. Pardon our sins. Cast us not away, for thy mercy's sake in Christ, in which we have trusted. Lord, we believe. Help thou our unbelief. We bless thee that thou hast never left thyself without a witness in the works of thy power, and the bounties of thy providence; but we bless thee with a deeper gratitude, that while, in times past, thou spakest unto our fathers by the prophets, thou hast in these latter days spoken unto us by thy Son from heaven. Enable us to grow daily in knowledge of thee, the only true God, and of Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. May we esteem no knowledge equal to that of Christ crucified, to whomsoever it may be foolishness, and a stumbling-block. And may the wisdom which thy word teaches, produce fruit in our inward thoughts, and our outward actions; in the piety of our hearts, and the holiness of our lives, abundantly to thy praise and glory. And more especially be thou our guide and guardian through this new day, to which thou hast awakened us. Strengthen us for trial, if trial is before us. Deliver us from temptation, if temptation is on our way; direct us in difficulty, or shield us in danger; and if this day is to be crowned with thy mercies, O God, in our continued health, and hope, and peace, fill our hearts with gratitude; enable us to love thee more, and to serve thee better than we have ever done; and thus conducting us, from day to day, by thy counsel, receive all at last, we pray thee, to thy glory; and all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—ACTS xxv.

THOU art great, O God, and greatly to be praised. Who shall declare thy praises, or tell of all thy mighty works? Yet blessed be thy name, that though thou art so far removed from us, in holiness and majesty, thou art willing, as thou art able, to make all grace abound toward us. Thou hast preserved our lives throughout another day. Thou hast protected us, O God, amidst innumerable snares and dangers. Thou hast brought us together again in peace and security to the evening sacrifice of praise and prayer; and still the means of grace and the hopes of glory are vouchsafed us; still we are privileged to plead the merits and mediation of Christ, and to look forward to his second coming with humble joy in his salvation. But while we bless thee for undeserved mercies, we have also to acknowledge many sins. It is to thy restraining grace, O God, that we owe our preservation from fatal apostasy. The heart is deceitful above all things; who can know it? We desire to try ourselves,

not by any standard of our own, but by thy most holy and heart-searching law. In many things we offend. In all things we fail and come short. If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who shall stand. Even in our best services, thy pure eye seeth the sin that worketh in us. But there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared! Still, therefore, O God, do we hope in thee; still, therefore, do we rejoice that with thee there is mercy and plenteous redemption. And how shall we praise thee for him through whom redemption has been revealed to us; for him who died, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God; for him who now, we trust, stands between our souls and our sins, as our advocate and mediator? O fill our heart with that love by which faith in Christ worketh. Make it more and more our delight to have recourse to that fountain of his peace-speaking blood, which thou hast opened for sin and for uncleanness. And while we daily adhere more closely to him as our Saviour, may we be also daily more and more conformed to his image. By holiness, by peacefulness, by charity, by every good work, may we declare, in the sight of men, that we would do thy will on earth even as it is done in heaven. Bless the ministers of thy glorious gospel. May they be animated by the Holy Spirit, even as thy saints of old. Bless especially those laborers, who, like Paul, are called to carry the message of grace to the nations who are in darkness. Remove obstacles from their way. Soften the heart of enemies. Make the truth strong for thine own name's sake, that the whole world may see the glory of our God. And while peace is in our own beloved Zion, and prosperity within her bulwarks, let us not forget that our responsibility is increased with our advantages. Let us not be high-minded, but fear, and use whatever talents thou hast committed to our keeping as those who must give account. Lord, watch over us this night. Grant us sound and refreshing sleep, and to see the light of a new day, if it pleaseth thee. Bless also our friends. Reward our benefactors. Forgive our enemies. Comfort all who mourn. Relieve all who suffer. Lord, hear; Lord, answer. Forgive and accept us through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—NEHEMIAH II.

MOST gracious God! help us, whenever we approach thee, or thy word, to do so in simplicity of mind, and sincerity of heart. May thy holy scriptures be profitable to us, at all times, for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness, and may what we have now read be blest to us. Lord, thou hast been very favorable unto us. Our lot has been cast amidst light and liberty, and we can worship thee, in public, or in private, no man making us afraid. Bless our country. Bless yet more abundantly these United States with the grace of thy Holy Spirit. Bless our rulers, and the whole

body of the people. Blot out our national sins. And may the knowledge of thee, and of Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, make all governments, throughout the world, more and more conducive to the best interests of mankind. But we know, O God, that this world passeth away; and we bless thee that thou hast made known to our faith and our hope another and a better. Thou hast not indeed dealt with us according to our iniquities. Even when men were sinners against thee, Christ died that they might be saved. We are sinners, O God, against mercy as well as against truth. But O look on us in the face of thine Anointed. Put a new song of praise into our mouth, that for us mercy rejoiceth against judgment. Write thy law in our hearts. Renew right spirits within us. And while thou enablest us to put off all unrighteousness, whether of the body or of the spirit, give us assurance of thy love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, and perseverance therein until the end. But whether thou grantest, or withholdest from us, in thy wisdom, the higher privileges of thy reconciled children, may our souls prosper and be in health. Lord, enable us, by thy Holy Spirit, to discharge aright, and for the promotion of thy glory, all the duties to which thou callest us. May we be honored instruments in thy hand, of advancing thy kingdom upon earth, however humble may be the sphere we occupy. Whether as rulers or subjects, teachers or taught, masters or servants, parents or children, may we ever act as seeing him who is invisible; may we walk as before the Lord, while we are in the land of the living, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but esteeming it a small thing to be judged of man's judgment; knowing that he who judgeth us, is the Lord. For all the mercies of the past night and this morning, O heavenly Father, accept our imperfect thanks. We are pilgrims and sojourners upon earth. Lord, hide not thy face from us. We know not what a day or an hour may bring forth. But do thou according to thy mercy with us, O God. Be still the light of our life, the strength of our hearts, our portion forever, and answer our prayers with grace, mercy, and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ACTS XXVI.

UNITE our hearts, O God, to praise thy name, and enable us to appear in spirit before thee as becometh the creatures of thy power, the dependents on thy bounty, and the undeserving objects of thy long-suffering mercy. Enable us to believe, with the heart unto righteousness, that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of all who diligently seek thee; and forbid that we should take thy holy name rashly or carelessly into our mouths. Follow with thy blessing, we entreat thee, our reading and meditation on thy word. May we ever esteem it our unspeakable privilege that we can make the word of the Lord the man of our counsel. What are we, and what

is our father's house, that thou shouldst so have cared for us. Things which were hidden from the wise and prudent, thou hast revealed unto us. Lord, bless the knowledge of thy truth to our souls. Lord, perfect thine own praise, in the mouths of babes and sucklings. Feed us with that spiritual food which is convenient for us, and build us up daily, towards the stature of perfect men in Christ Jesus. Our Father which art in heaven, we desire to give thee grateful thanks for all the grace and mercy which we have experienced at thy hand, during the day, and throughout the week, which are now closing over us. Thou hast granted us life and favor, and thy visitations have preserved our spirits. We would remember that the day of life draweth rapidly to its close; that the times and the seasons are bearing us swiftly to eternity, that the night cometh in which no man can work, and that we know not how soon we may be summoned before thee. O pardon, most merciful Saviour, our innumerable transgressions. Work in us yet more and more, O Holy Spirit, to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Deliver us from all evil, Almighty God, and sanctify us wholly for thine own name's sake. While we look forward to the privileges of another Sabbath, if it be thy will that we awaken to another day on earth, we pray that thou wouldst prepare us to profit by our advantages. May we be in the spirit on the Lord's day. May our wants be supplied, our sins subdued, our faith strengthened, our love increased. O blessed be thou, our gracious God, who hast not only given us sabbaths in time, as resting-places amidst the toils of our earthly pilgrimage, but hast given us the hope of an everlasting sabbath, to succeed these toils, and satisfy our souls with more than we can ask or think. What shall we render unto thee for all thy benefits? What can we render? Nothing but ourselves! To thee and thy service, O Lord God! unworthy, polluted as the offering is, yet for his sake in whom thou art well pleased, accept us, bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us. We pray for all our brethren of mankind, that they may be enlightened, sanctified, and saved. Send forth thy light to the dark places of the earth, which are still the habitations of cruelty. Thy kingdom come. And now, O Lord, we commit our souls to thy keeping. Mercifully hear us, and grant an answer to our prayers in peace, for Christ our Saviour's sake. Amen.

Twenty-Ninth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXXIV.

O LORD, thou hast in thy great mercy, preserved us to behold the light, and enter upon the holy rest, of another day of the Son of man; thou hast called us again to rejoice at the tidings, The Lord is risen,

and hath appeared unto many; and to magnify thy faithfulness in thy promise, that thine holy One should not see corruption. Separate and sanctify our hearts this day for thy peculiar service. Enable us to say to all worldly cares, intruding anxieties, and to the tumult of earthly thoughts and passions, Be still, and know that this is the day of the Lord. Grant unto us throughout the day, a habitual recollection of thy command, Remember the sabbath to keep it holy. Pour out thy Spirit upon us, as thou didst upon thy servant John—banished to the isle of Patmos for the testimony of Jesus; and make known thy word unto us. Let thy Spirit take of the word of Christ, and show it unto our souls. Teach us sin's hateful-ness, its opposition to thy most perfect and holy law, the dishonor it casts upon thy majesty, the destruction it brings upon our own souls, the agony with which it pierced the Lord of glory. Bring home to our consciences the charges of thy word, that we may be led to take refuge underneath the wings of Immanuel. Thou that openest the prison doors and settest the prisoners free, loose this day our bonds, proclaim to our souls the year of jubilee, the acceptable year of the Lord. Grant unto us a simple faith in the great propitiation and assured confidence in the word and promise of God. Give us to know, that we are known of thee; and that we are the sheep of thy pasture. Say unto us, Thine iniquities are forgiven, thy sin is purged. Bless every member of this family apart; let us individually, and as a household, receive from thee the grace we need. Grant that our earthly may be a type of the heavenly home; of the peace, the love, the charity, that reign in the family above; and with prayers for our household, we would unite our supplications for the whole household of faith; beseeching thee especially to bless the pastor whom thou hast set over us in holy things, and richly to endue his soul with every needful gift and grace of thy Spirit. Purify the sons of Levi; purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering of righteousness. Cause all thy goodness and grace to pass before us, that in the assembly of thy church we shall feel with Jacob, this is none other than the house of God, this is the very gate of heaven. O Lord God of hosts, hear this our prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God, our shield, look on the face of thine Anointed. For his sake hear us graciously, and forgive us freely. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM LXXXVII.

O LORD, thou hast not dealt with us, as with those of our brethren who still sit in the region and shadow of death. Thou hast appointed to us thy sabbaths; thou hast given to us thine ordinances; thou hast called us to the assembly of thy saints; thou hast permitted us to join in the prayers and praises of the great congregation; our eyes have again beheld our teachers, and we have received the

words of life from thy lips. Not unto us; not unto us, O Lord, but the glory is due unto thee. Thou only makest us to differ from the poor heathen, who fashions with his tools a graven image, and saith unto it, Thou art my God. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us be stirred up to magnify his holy name, who hath not left us to grope amidst the darkness of idolatry, nor subjected us to the humiliation of being carried away by dumb idols, and receiving, as our God, the principalities and the powers of darkness. From so great a spiritual death, thou, Lord, hast saved us. Thou hast given to us our lot in a land of Christian light; our lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, thou hast given to us the goodly heritage of thy word. Let not our distinguished privileges prove to us the greater condemnation; let not that awful sentence descend upon our souls, If I had not come among them, and done the things which none other man did, they had not had sin; but now they have no cloak for their sin. Verily, O God, we confess before thee, that henceforth we are without excuse. We beseech thee seal divine instruction upon our hearts, and often recall to our memories the glorious things which have this day been spoken to us of the city of God. Thou who lovest the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob, throw wide the gates of righteousness, that the nations of the earth may enter in. Incline the heart of thine ancient people to seek the Lord their God, and David their king; cause their captivity to return, and have mercy upon them. And more especially we pray for our beloved land, for the church of the reformation thou hast planted therein. Look, Lord, upon its desolations, and rebuild the waste places thereof. O thou who watchest over Israel, and grantest unto thy beloved sleep, watch over our family during the darkness and silence of the night. Let not our beds become our graves. Let us not sleep the sleep of death. O wash us in the purifying blood of thine own Son. Clothe us with his perfect righteousness, that when we sleep, to awake not again until the heavens be no more, we may appear before thee righteous in the Lord our righteousness, unto whom, with the father and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed dominion and praise, now and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—NEHEMIAH IV.

O God, we come before thee as sinners, but thou, O Lord, hast showed to us what is good, and what the Lord requireth of us; even that we should plead the sacrifice of thine own Son, and that we should appear before thee sprinkled with his precious blood, and righteous in his righteousness. At thy footstool we renounce every other plea; in thy holy presence we know of no other righteousness; and, in the prospect of appearing at thy judgment-seat, our alone desire is to win Christ, and to be found in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but the righteousness which is of

God through faith. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ. Thanks be unto his great name for in whatever measure he has disposed and inclined our hearts, by his Holy Spirit, to obey the gospel call, and receive the offered reconciliation, for opening our eyes to behold the gulf into which sin had plunged us, and awakening in our souls a timely alarm, and prompting the inquiry, What shall we do to be saved? If it be known to thee, thou Searcher of all hearts, that any member of this family has rejected the offered salvation, and refused to be reconciled unto God, O let not thy Holy Spirit be grieved; say not of that soul, It is joined to its idols, let it alone; seal not its perdition by the withdrawalment of thy Spirit. Thou who raisest the dead, and quickenest whom thou wilt, raise and quicken into newness of spiritual life every soul among us, hitherto dead in trespasses and sins. Make us partakers of the same faith, the same joyful hope, and heirs, at last, of the same blessed kingdom. Where thou hast begun a good work in our hearts, carry it on to the day of everlasting redemption. Perfect that which concerneth us. Sanctify us wholly in soul, body, and spirit. As we are about to enter upon the business and employments of our calling, after the rest of thy holy sabbath, strengthen us to maintain the testimony of Jesus in the world. Whilst we are in the world, may it yet be manifest that we are not of the world, and may our hearts be habitually kept above it. Like thy servant Nehemiah, may we both pray, and set our watch against the enemies of our souls, that encamp around us. Like him, may we deem no sacrifice great, no self-denial painful, no toil wearisome, no contest arduous, to which Christ calls us, in the maintenance of our faith, and of his glory. May it be our meat and drink to do his will, and may we run with greater alacrity in the way of his commandments, than we have ever done to serve our own lusts and pleasures. And whilst we are pursuing our necessary and lawful callings, may it still be in our hearts to give glory to God, and may we still be contriving for the advancement of his kingdom. Appear, O Lord, with glory, and build up Zion, and hasten the establishment of the kingdom of righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Hasten it for thine elect's sake; hasten it for the glory of thy Son; to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed dominion, and glory, and praise, now and ever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—ACTS XXVII.

THOU, O Lord, reignest, thou art clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength wherewith he hath girded himself. The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. There is none, Lord, like unto thee; thou declarest the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and

I will do all my pleasure. Thine eyes are upon the ways of man, and thou seest all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity can hide themselves. Thou knowest their works and overturnest them in the night, so that they are destroyed. The wicked plot against the just, but thou takest them in the net which their own hands have spread. Thou turnest their wisdom into folly and their counsels into confusion, and the devices they had imagined into the accomplishment of thy word. Teach us, O Lord, to mark the course of thy providence and to adore the wisdom by which thou overrulest all things for the advancement of thy church, and for the benefit of thy chosen. Many there be that rise up against thy people. Many there be that say of their souls, There is no help for them in God. But thou, O Lord, art a shield for them, thou art their glory and the lifter up of their heads. Strengthen our faith in thy word of promise; to hope even against hope; to trust God while his way is in the deep, and his path in the mighty ocean, and though his footsteps cannot be traced. When thou art pleased to try us by affliction, or by poverty, or by bereavements, when clouds and darkness are around thy throne, enable us to cast all anxious care and foreboding fears upon him, who calls us to be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and by supplication, to make our requests known unto God. May our hearts be encouraged in seasons of trial, by meditating upon thy dealings with thy saints of old. When thou settest before us Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon, Paul in shipwreck, teach us to trust thee farther than we see thee, and when all providences are against us, still to hope in thy word. By thy good and watchful providence over us we have been preserved amidst the dangers of another day. Thou hast not been unmindful of us, though we have been unmindful of thee. Enter not into judgment with us for the sins of this by-gone day. Let thy Holy Spirit lead us anew to the fountain which thou hast opened for sin and for uncleanness. Wash thou us, and we shall be clean; purify us, and we shall be whiter than the snow. Grant unto every member of this family the grace of true repentance, godly sorrow for sin, humility, penitence, habitual tenderness of conscience, and to fear sin worse than death. Grant a child-like simplicity of faith in the efficacy of the blood of the great atonement. O let that blood be sprinkled upon every member of this family. Unite us as a family of the faithful. Renew thine image upon each of our souls. Having received from thee the gift of life, bestow upon us the better gift of life for evermore, that when the few and sorrowful days of our earthly pilgrimage are ended, we may be made partakers together of life everlasting. Advance, we beseech thee, thy kingdom of grace, as the forerunner of thy kingdom of glory. Let the tidings of redeeming love be carried, by the swift messengers of the gospel, into all lands. Forget not, we pray thee, the land of our fathers. Behold and visit the vine which thou hast planted, and the branch which thou hast made strong for thyself. Let our country be as the garden of the Lord, as a field which the Lord has blessed. Revive thy cause. Pour out thy Holy Spirit upon us. When the chief Shepherd shall appear, may we as a fam-

ily appear with him in glory. Through his all-sufficient sacrifice, and prevailing intercession, we present our prayers to his Father and our Father, to his God and our God.

TUESDAY MORNING.—NEHEMIAH V.

LORD God Almighty, thou art the preserver of men. Thine eye watched over us through the night, and thy power has raised us to the light of a new day. Make us duly thankful for all the mercies of the past, and mightily strengthen us for all the duties of the future. Our times are entirely in thy hands. Enable us to dedicate every moment to the advancement of thy honor and glory. Let the time past of our lives suffice to have wrought our own will, and henceforth give us grace to do thy will on earth, even as it is done in heaven. Lord, our sins have been many; they have been great in themselves, and by reason of many aggravations they have been heinous in thy sight. We have possessed thy written word, but, alas! we have not studied it with care; we have possessed a preached gospel, but, alas! we have often stopped our ears; we have been invited to communion with God, but, alas! we have loved the world. Enter not, O God, into judgment with us for these things; but lead us to the Lamb slain, whose blood cleanseth from all sin. Deeply convince us of our sin and misery; clearly enlighten us in the knowledge of Christ; entirely renew our wills; and graciously persuade and enable us to embrace the Saviour as he is proclaimed to sinners in the gospel. Show us all the love of Jesus, and let it mightily constrain us to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in a present evil world. O let the love of Jesus separate us from the love of the world. Let it teach us to deny ourselves, and take up our cross and follow him. Specially give us grace to flee from that covetousness which is idolatry, and give us godliness with contentment, the true and abiding gain. And lest we should be discontented with our lot, remind us of him who had not whereon to lay his head. Teach us, O Father, by his example, and enable us, by his Spirit, to renounce the world, to crucify the flesh, to resist the devil. Teach us by his example, and enable us by his Spirit, to have compassion on the poor, and, as God may give us the means and opportunity, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick, to consider the stranger, and compassionate the prisoner. Infuse this spirit, good Lord, into the hearts of all ranks, but especially into the hearts of the rich and the mighty, whom thou hast appointed unto this very stewardship. Let the bright examples of the holy men of old shine upon these our times; and let there be many, like thy servant Nehemiah, tender to compassionate the poor, wise to direct relief, and firm to execute every purpose of wisdom. Hear us, O God, from heaven, thy dwelling-place. Think upon us for good, and enable us, as we have oppor-

tunity, to do good unto all men, and especially to thy household of faith. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be glory forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—ACTS xxviii.

ALMIGHTY, most merciful, and everlasting God, hear us, the creatures of a day. Of old hast thou laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment, and, as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and of thy years there shall be no end. Show to us, Lord, the end and measure of our days, that we may know how frail we are; and so teach us to number our few and uncertain years, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. And, now that another day is gone, and another night arrived, may we have wisdom to consider that we are another day nearer to death, to judgment, and to eternity. O that we were indeed wise! that we understood this,—that we should consider our latter end! Lord, grant us grace to live waiting and watching for thy call. And whether it come by day, at midnight, or in the morning, may we all be found ready. And now, O Lord, so long as our years are lengthened out teach us to walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Give us grace to employ our time in seeking to learn more of God; in seeking more conformity to his will; in mortifying the deeds of the body, that we may live; and in bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit in all holiness, that our heavenly Father may be glorified in the world. Yet, Lord, we must confess, that we have been very unprofitable servants. We have wasted our precious time on vanities. We have been as men spending their money for that which is not bread, and their labor for that which satisfieth not. Yet blessed be thy holy name, O God, thou desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather it is thy desire, that he should turn unto thee and live. O turn us, and we shall be turned; draw us, and we shall run after thee. Raise our affections from the earth, and set them upon things above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. By the cross of Christ let us now be crucified to the world, and the world to us; and let the life that we shall henceforth live in the flesh, be by the faith of the Son of God. Let Christ be our life; and, unworthy in ourselves though we be, when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory. Remember in thy mercy, O Lord, all our dear friends and kind benefactors; and if we have enemies, forgive them, O God, and teach us from the heart to forgive them likewise. Remember in thy mercy all that voyage on the seas, and protect and deliver them in the hour of danger. Remember for good, all sick and afflicted persons. Fit the living for life, and the

dying for death. Bless the word of instruction and comfort when addressed to their ear. Make it better than a medicine for their sickness, or oil and wine for their wounds. Open the ears of men, O Lord, that they may everywhere hear and obey thy word. Take away in mercy the blindness from the eyes of Israel, and in truth and holiness uphold thy Gentile churches. Rule in the hearts of our rulers, and let righteousness exalt the nation. Let thy salvation be nigh to them that fear thee, that glory may dwell in our land. Grant to us that which is good; and the earth shall yield her increase. Take away, O Lord, thine anger from us forever; for thou art good and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Keep us through the night, and if, in thy providence, we are spared till another day, may we go forth again to serve thee in newness of life. And to the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, the everlasting God, be glory forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—NEHEMIAH VI.

GRANT, O God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may learn by the example of other times. To-day give us grace to hear thy voice. To-day prevent us from hardening our hearts, as in the provocation, in the temptation in the wilderness, when the fathers of Israel tempted thee, and proved thee, and saw thy workings forty years. Preserve us, O Father, from their evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. Make us, in thy mercy, partakers of Christ, and enable us to hold our confidence steadfast unto the end. Lord, let the example of Israel serve both as warning and encouragement to all thy Gentile churches. Let us be warned by thy breaking off of the natural branches, lest we also should be broken off through any self-righteousness or unbelief. Let us be encouraged, also, by their example; for they never did return and seek thy face in vain. Thou didst never leave them without a type of Jesus, the spiritual Saviour; but didst raise up Moses to deliver them from bondage; didst raise up David to deliver them from persecution; didst raise up Nehemiah to deliver them from captivity; and didst raise up prophets to deliver them from blindness. Even so, Lord, do to us of the Gentiles, whom thou hast called in thy mercy. From the bondage of sin and satan; from the persecutions of antichrist; from the captivity of the world, whether in its fear or love; and from the errors and revilings of heresy and infidelity, good Lord, deliver us. Raise up in thy churches everywhere men that know, and love, and are valiant for thy truth upon the earth; and bring, by thy mighty Spirit, the thoughts of all men into the captivity of Christ. Let the kings of the world be wise. Let the judges of the earth be taught. And mercifully, O Lord, teach the rulers of this long-favored land how much they owe to thee, how deeply they are accountable to thee. Loudly and effectually call to the remembrance of thy churches ir

these lands, all that thou didst do for their fathers in days of old; from what bondage they were delivered; with what light they were enlightened; with what privileges they were endowed; with what liberty of Christ they were made free. Humble us, their children, for our neglects and backslidings. Heal us graciously, and love us freely, so shall we render to thee sacrifices of prayer and of praise. Be our guide, O Lord, in all our temporal affairs. Thy blessing alone maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow. Let all who are engaged in the merchandise of this world remember the merchandise that is better than gold, and the gain that is better than much fine gold. Let all that are engaged in the husbandry of the field remember the danger of the way-side, and the stony ground, and the thorns, and acknowledge that the Lord of the harvest is coming, and expecting of his seed, from some thirty, and from some sixty, and from some an hundred fold. Lord, make us fruitful in every good word and work. Strengthen our hands for every duty. Encourage our hearts that we may fear no evil, and in all things make us conquerors, yea, more than conquerors, through him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood. To whom, with thee, O Father, and the eternal Spirit, be all glory, dominion, and power. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ROMANS I.

O GOD and Father, how great and how precious have ever been thy promises of a Saviour; thy promises now fulfilled in Jesus Christ our Lord, who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead. Let thy mercy and thy peace come down upon us through him, and let us know that we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins, according to the richness of thy grace. Let us never forget, that there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we can be saved. And, blessed by thy name, O God, Jesus is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto the Father by him, seeing that he, who once died for us, dieth no more, but now ever liveth to make intercession for us. O Saviour, intercede for us, who are, by nature, miserable sinners: and, resting all our own hopes upon thy intercession for us, O! give us grace humbly and earnestly to intercede for others. Lord, look in mercy, upon thine ancient people, the Jews. O! remember the covenant which thou didst well order in all things with faithful Abraham. And, O God of all grace, who didst give thy Son Jesus a light to lighten the Gentiles, let him, as the Sun of righteousness, arise upon a darkened world with healing in his wings. The dark places of the earth are still full of the habitations of horrid cruelty: Father of lights, send forth upon them the light of thy Spirit, and stretch out over them the sceptre of the Prince of peace. Let the nations that still sit in darkness, see great light;

and upon them that sit in the valley of the shadow of death, send light and life from the Lord. Arouse thoughtless sinners by the voice of thy coming judgment; draw humble believers by the power of thy tender mercies. Produce in all thy churches that hunger and thirst after righteousness, to which alone our Lord has promised the bread and the water of life. Take away, O Lord, from them all false doctrine, and heresy, and schism. Restore thy word where it has been made void by traditions of men; and let the churches that have apostatized to many mediators, return to the one Mediator between God and man. Warn, in thy mercy, all unfaithful churches; and if they will not be warned, and if they will not repent, yet lead thy people out of them, that they may not partake of their plagues. Remember these lands in mercy; and graciously bless all ranks and conditions of the people. Let them that rule, rule in thy fear; let them that are ruled inherit prosperity and peace. Give grace to those that are in health to use and not abuse their mercy: give grace to those that are in sickness to hear the voice of the rod, and him that hath appointed it. Think, in mercy, O Lord, upon all the children of poverty and sorrow: upon all who are dreading or weeping over their sad bereavements: upon all who are in any danger by sea or by land: think upon them all, and upon us, O Lord, in thy mercy, and for thy great goodness in Christ Jesus, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be glory in the churches forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—NEHEMIAH VIII.

ALMIGHTY God, do thou cause thy word to dwell in us richly, in all wisdom and understanding. Enable us to say from the experience of its power in the hand of the Spirit, The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether; more to be desired are they than gold, yea, much fine gold; sweeter, also, than honey, and the honey-comb. Grant, O Lord, that by the study and knowledge of the scriptures, we may be warned, and fear to sin against thee. May we ever find, that, by obeying their commands, we enjoy a great reward. May they lead us to understand our errors. May they cleanse us from the secret faults of which no eye takes cognizance but thine; especially may they restrain us from presumptuous sin, nor permit us to live under the dominion of any transgression. Above all, may we, by the scriptures, attain to enlarged, enlightened, believing, and sanctified views of the Lord Jesus Christ. May we apprehend the glory of his person, the grace of his office, the perfection of his work, the richness of his promises,

and the beauty of his example. May the Holy Spirit thus cause us to trust in him, and conform us to him. May we be quickened into zeal for his cause. May we be honored to bear a part in it, and see our efforts crowned with success. May the word have free course and be glorified, until the kingdoms of this world shall be the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. To this glorious end, do thou condescend to acknowledge the various means employed by the church in our times, so far as these are agreeable to thy holy will. May the preached gospel be effectual, as of old, when many sinners were convinced and converted. 1
 Thou, who art the Lord of the harvest, do thou thrust out laborers into the harvest; and thou, who hast the hearts of all in thine hand, 2
 do thou move the people to desire, and hear, and receive thy truth. 3
 May the labors of bible societies be blessed, until thy holy word shall be found in every hand. May the various missionary societies be directed, and honored, and blessed, by thy Spirit, so that, wherever the word is spoken, it may be accompanied with the demonstration of his presence and power. 4
 May our schools be the means of gathering the lambs of Christ's fold. May the unwearied instructions of the domestic circle receive the countenance of the God of all 5
 the families of the earth. May the secret devotion of the closet be earnest, and spiritual, and acceptable. 6
 May the sighs of the men that cry for the defection of the church, and the sins of the world, prevail, through the intercession of the great High Priest. 7
 May his arm control, and direct, and overrule the counsels of princes, and the government of nations. 8
 May our own beloved land be prospered in all its interests; and especially from it may the word of the Lord sound out into all nations. 9
 Replenish the mind of our President with heavenly wisdom. 10
 May counsellors be taught of God. May the magistracy acknowledge the supremacy of Christ, and rule for him. May all say before him, Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory. What we ask is for his sake; and now, by his worthiness and intercession, let the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

 THURSDAY EVENING.—ROMANS II.

WHEREWITH shall we come before thee, O Lord, or bow ourselves before the high God? We are altogether unworthy to appear in thy presence. Our own hearts condemn us; but thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. God be merciful to us sinners. The high privileges with which we have been favored, have been an aggravation of our offence. Thou hast given us light, and we have walked in darkness. Thou hast called us by thy word, and we have refused to come unto thee. Thou hast supplied us with ordinances, and we have lightly esteemed them. Thou hast blessed

us with thy sabbaths, and we have accounted them a weariness. O God, we bless thee that thou hast not removed us from forfeited privileges, nor withdrawn thy tender mercies from us. Still are we favored with the word of God and prayer. O Lord, enable us now to estimate these, and profit by them. May the Holy Spirit shine on the page of revelation, so that we shall be enabled to read the truth recorded there. May we truly be convinced of sin, and enter fully into the inspired account of our own hearts, as deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Help us to feel and own that we are perishing sinners; but, O Lord, abandon us not to despair. May he who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. O may we apprehend how thou art just in justifying the ungodly. May we thus be encouraged to trust in thee. Show us, Lord, that the more we confide in thee, the more we honor thee. And O may our contemplation of thy name, as our God and Saviour, exercise a sanctifying power over our heart and life. Enable us to say, The love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that he died for all, that they who live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them, and rose again. Grant that, through the riches of the divine grace, we may be enabled to cultivate the graces of pure and undefiled religion, adding to our faith, virtue, and to virtue, knowledge, and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, and to patience, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, charity. Lord, suffer us not to be any longer barren of good works. May we be conformed to the example of Jesus, who went about doing good. And may others enjoy the rich blessings of providence and grace with which we are favored. Compassionate the poor, O Lord; supply their need, and sanctify their sorrows. Do thou instruct the ignorant, and fill their minds with the light of truth. Tenderly visit the sick and afflicted, and make thou their bed in their sorrow, and let their sufferings be an ordinance for their edification. O Lord, strengthen the tempted; decide the wavering; reclaim the wanderer; restore the backsliding, for thy name's sake; spare useful lives; and in mercy prepare the dying for death. With ourselves, we commend to thee thy people and cause in every place. May thy kingdom come, and be established, until thy will shall be done on earth even as it is in heaven. Sustain the hearts of those who are bearing the burthen and heat of the day, whether at home or abroad. May they see the pleasure of the Lord prospering in their hands. And O let the happy period come, when Jesus shall see of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied. All we ask is in his name; and unto the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be equal and undivided praise, now, henceforth, and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—NEHEMIAH IX.

LORD, teach us to pray. We know not what to pray for as we ought; but it is written, The Spirit helpeth our infirmities; he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. O send forth thy light and thy truth; let them lead and guide us; then shall we go unto the altar of God, unto God our exceeding joy. Lord, what is man! a sinner from the beginning hitherto; a sinner by nature; a sinner still, though even renewed by thine own sanctifying grace. O Lord, we confess our sinfulness, that our hearts are depraved, and our lives unholy. We confess the sins of all men; and especially do we humble ourselves for the sins of thy people. O may the record of their history, mercifully preserved in the scriptures, be profitable to us. Help us to discover the beginnings of sin in them, and to avoid the same. May we be alarmed by the awful consequences to which their sins exposed themselves and others, and not therein follow their example. May we stand by faith. Never suffer us to be high-minded; but may we fear always. May our confidence in thee be cherished by believing views of the grace manifested in them, and toward them. While we behold the readiness to forgive, may we be induced to come to thee with our confessions and prayers. While we see that thy good Spirit was not withheld, notwithstanding their rebellions; may we be encouraged to seek this precious gift. And O suffer us not to rest short of the sure and certain consciousness that he abideth in us. May we not grieve him by our sins, nor quench him by our neglect. May we enjoy the communion of the Spirit. May our souls be filled with his light, quickened by his power, and comforted by his grace. By his agency may we be qualified for any duty, and made faithful and successful in it. Enable us to study our own personal godliness; and may we maintain the exercises of self-denial, and attain to the heavenly art of self-government. Do thou control every thought, suggest every word, and direct every action. In the family, may we cultivate the graces that adorn it in all kindness, and condescension, and love. May we be faithful and consistent members of the church, maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and striving together for the faith of the gospel. And in our intercourse with the world, forbid, Lord, that we should ever give occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. May the fruit of the Spirit abound in us and others, even love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. We are thine, O Lord. We acknowledge thy claim upon us. In Jesus we devote ourselves to thee. Hear, Lord, and answer in peace. And do thou accept of us in our person and service, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—ROMANS III.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we are encouraged, by thy tender mercies, to draw nigh unto thee. Justly mightest thou have cast us off forever; but when we had destroyed ourselves, in thee was our help found. O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God; how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Our fall, O God, has magnified the riches of thy grace; our ruin has displayed thy wisdom; and our helplessness has exalted thy power. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth thine iniquities, healeth thy diseases, redeemeth thy life from destruction, crowneth them with loving-kindness and tender mercy. O Lord, do thou reveal thyself to us in Jesus Christ. May we see thy divine perfection, gloriously harmonizing in him, to accomplish the redemption of sinners. May we thus be restored to confidence in thee. May we be constrained to love thee. May we feel the force of the heavenly remonstrance, Ye are not your own; ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God with your body and spirit, which are his. Never suffer us to doubt thy faithfulness and truth. Keep us waiting upon thee at all times, that we may receive out of thy fulness; and may we have holy boldness to plead with thee, and to say, in faith, Do as thou hast said. Fill our understanding; O God, with light. Reclaim us from every crooked way. May we be found ever in the path of righteousness. Suffer us to be no longer unprofitable servants. May we learn to go about doing good. May our lips be without guile, our mouth filled with praise, our feet ready to go on errands of mercy. May our ways be approved of thee, and be thou ever our fear and dread. Lord, we are thine, all we are, and all we have. May we be enabled to present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, and count it a reasonable service, being constrained by the mercies of God. Suffer us not to be conformed to this world; but may we be transformed by the renewing of our minds, and in thy service may we know thy will to be good, acceptable, and perfect. We lay ourselves upon thine altar; accept the offering, O Lord, through the worthiness and intercession of Jesus Christ. Guide us by thy counsel while we live, and afterwards receive us to glory. Prepare us for all thy purposes; and grant that having served thee on earth, we may be admitted to the rest that remaineth for the people of God. Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, to the only wise God and our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—NEHEMIAH XIII.

O LORD God Almighty, thou art the God of the universe. Thou hast made of one blood all nations of men that dwell upon the face of the whole earth. Thou didst create man for thyself, but he departed from thee. Thou didst make him upright, but he sought out many inventions. We lament before thee this morning, that in every age and country men have sinned against thee. The nations have forsaken thee. They have shown that they did not like to retain thee in their knowledge, or glorify thee as God. Professing themselves to be wise, they have become fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and beasts, and creeping things. Most merciful God, thou hast promised the heathen to Christ as an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as a possession. O fulfil this promise, we do this morning most humbly, but earnestly, beseech thee. Pour out floods of light and knowledge upon all nations, that all men may know the truth as it is in Jesus. Cause the Ammonite, the Moabite, the Egyptian, and every tribe and people, to enter into the congregation of the Lord in the present generation. Remove from the Israelite the veil that prevents him from seeing Christ in Moses and the prophets, and enable him savingly to see Jesus whom his blinded ancestors pierced. Bring back the apostasy of Christianity, and put an end to the man of sin. Take away all refuges of lies from the human family, and place them all upon the Rock of ages. As there is but one shepherd, let there be but one sheep-fold; and may all men, of every clime and color, by the possession of like precious faith, be blessed with faithful Abraham. We thank thee for the rest of the past night, and for the safety, health, and privileges of this morning. Lord, sanctify to us thy providential goodness. Enable us to estimate it justly, to feel it constantly, and to bless thee for it perpetually. Take us under thy most gracious care, and guide us by thy Spirit through the remainder of this day. As it is the last day of the week, may it admonish us of our latter end, and remind us, that ere long we shall arrive at the last day of our lives. O may we be prepared, at that day, to say we have fought a good fight, we have kept the faith, and we know that in Jesus there is laid up for us a crown of life. Bless, we beseech thee, O Lord, the land of our nativity. Bless our rulers with godliness, wisdom, and stability. Bless all our friends in every place; may they be the friends of God, and may they and we be one in Christ Jesus the Lord. Comfort, O Lord, the sick; enable them to be submissive to thy will; and may their prolonged lives be Christ Jesus the Lord, or death eternal gain. Comfort the poor under their privations; make them rich in faith; and enable them to see, that afflictions which are temporary are not worthy to be compared to the glory that awaits them. Pardon, O Lord, all our sins. Overlook the unworthiness of our appearance at this time before thee; and graciously

accept of us and our feeble services, through Jesus Christ, the Lord our righteousness, and God over all, blessed now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ROMANS IV.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we desire this evening to come before thee in the name of our all-prevailing and ever-living intercessor. Through him we would desire to thank thee, O Lord, for all the mercy and the truth which thou hast bestowed upon us all the days of our lives. Early were we cast upon thy care, and blessed be thy name, thou hast cared for us. Thy mercies have been new to us every morning, and repeated to us every passing moment. We desire especially to thank thee this evening for the goodness we have received at thy hand through the past day. We bless thee for all our comforts and enjoyments, personal and social. We praise thee, O Lord, that we have been continued in life, and brought in safety to the close of another week, and the approach of another sabbath. May we be enabled to dismiss all distracting cares of the world from our minds, and to be prepared for the sacred rest and heavenly privileges of that holy day. We bless thee for the high privilege we have this evening enjoyed, in reading in thy divine word those glorious things that belong to our everlasting peace. O enable us to greatly profit thereby. Enable us to feel that we cannot be justified in whole or in part by works of righteousness which we have done; that we cannot be blessed except by the imputation of righteousness without works. Bestow upon each of us the faith that constituted thy servant Abraham righteous. Give us grace to believe in Jehovah, our righteousness, to know personally and experimentally that he fulfilled for us the law—that he magnified and made it honorable—that upon him were laid all our sins—and that he abolished and made an end of them—that we cannot, therefore, come into condemnation, but in him have passed from death unto life. Cause thy Spirit to witness with our spirits, that we are the children of God—that possessing like precious faith, we are the children of faithful Abraham, and heirs according to the promise. Bless, we this evening beseech thee, O Lord, all mankind. God of all consolation, comfort the sick; be a present help in their trouble. Greatly bless our native land, in the President and his cabinet, in all subordinate branches of the government, and in all the people of every rank and condition. May the church be purified from all human inventions, and made gloriously triumphant over all her enemies. May she be enabled to put to silence all gainsayers of the truth; and may she speedily embrace within her pure communion all inhabitants of the land. Bless this night all our relatives and friends with every spiritual and soul-enriching blessing. Reward our benefactors. If we have enemies, we beseech thee to forgive them, and to enable us to forgive them also. We commit ourselves and our household this night to thy

care. Refresh us with sleep as thou dost thy beloved. Forgive all our sins. Overlook our unworthiness. Receive us graciously, and bless us abundantly. And to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the adorable Jehovah of Israel, we would now and forever, through the divine Redeemer, be found ascribing kingdom, power, and glory. Amen.

Thirtieth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXXVIII.

MOST adorable Father of mercies, and God of all consolation, we desire, on this morning of thy holy sabbath, to draw near to thy throne of grace. We give thee our united and hearty thanks for the Christian sabbath. We bless thee, that upon the morning of this day, our adorable Redeemer burst the bonds of death, and took away the victory of the grave. We rejoice that although he died for sin, he arose on this morning without sin, and to our justification; that this day is a memorial of sin destroyed, and eternal life brought gloriously to light. We thank thee for the rest we have enjoyed in sleep; that no evil has come upon us, nor any plague visited our dwelling. We acknowledge the measure of health we individually experience, and all the comforts by which we are surrounded, to be gifts of thy providence. Enable us to feel thy goodness deeply, and to remember it constantly throughout the day. Look down in great mercy, we beseech thee, this morning, upon the whole world. We entreat thee, O Lord, to bless especially thy church everywhere. May this be a great day in her assemblies. Pour out a spirit of prayer upon all families, and cause all individuals called by thy name to rejoice when it is said, Let us go to the house of God. Draw many to thyself this morning, and enable them to hold fellowship with the Father and with the Son Jesus Christ. Hear, Lord, the prayers of thy Jacob, and graciously answer the petitions of thy Israel. Make thy people willing in a day of thy power, and enable them to feel that it is good for him to draw near unto God. Bless the preachers of thy word; may they run joyfully, knowing that thou hast sent them. Endow them largely for their appointed work; and may their ministrations, this day, be powerful by thy grace. Suit thy word, we beseech thee, to the varied conditions of thy people, and may each individual receive a word in season. Be very merciful, this morning, to all that are in affliction, either of body or mind. Give patience to the sick. Enable them to see thy hand in their sickness, and to be silent, because the dispensation is thine. Comfort the mourner, support the feeble, and raise up the bowed down. May

the restored to health among the afflicted praise thee on earth, and those passing through death magnify thy name in heaven. Bless, Lord, our rulers in this our native land. Enable them to remember, that they have been appointed by thee, and to thee must give account. O may they be in the spirit on this thy day, honoring thee by whom they have been exalted to rule; and may they be all prepared to reign as kings and priests with Christ in heaven. Bless all our dear friends in every place. We rejoice that thine eye is upon them all, however much their circumstances may lie hid from us. Lord, suit thy dispensations to their eternal advantage, and prepare them all for thyself. Bountifully bless all our benefactors, and repay double to their souls their kindness to us. Enable us to forgive our enemies, as we trust that thou, for Christ's sake, wilt forgive us. Take us all under thy superintendence and direction through the day. May we be conducted by thy Spirit to the sanctuary, and feel that one day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere; and may such of us as are required to remain at home, be wholly engrossed by spiritual and eternal things. We commit ourselves individually to thee, our covenant God; and all we ask or expect, is not in ourselves, but solely in Christ Jesus; to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, our adorable and eternal Jehovah, be kingdom, and power, and glory. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM LXXXIX. 1-27.

ALMIGHTY, all-glorious, and most merciful Jehovah, enable us, on this evening of thy holy Sabbath, to come, with all holy reverence and confidence, into thy most gracious presence. Enable us, this evening to feel that we have come unto thee in thine own appointed way, and that we are accepted in the Beloved; that we are not seen in ourselves, in our native impurity and imperfections; but in the face of God our shield, the Lord our righteousness, and Captain of our salvation. Give us grace to rest in assured confidence, that we are justified freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus; that thou hast set our feet upon the Rock of ages, and established there our goings. We unite, O Lord, in thanking and praising thee for all the privileges of the past day. We bless thee for its freedom from the cares and labors of the other days of the week; for its sacred rest and holy opportunities. Grant, Lord, that it may be greatly blessed, in its effects and consequences, to many souls. May there be many, this evening, in the family and closet, before thy throne, beseeching thee to follow, with much fruit to edification, the whole ordinances of the sanctuary on the past day; and hear, O Lord, their prayers, and cause the seed that has been sown in bringing, hearing, and preaching thy word, to grow up richly, and bring forth abundantly, to the praise and glory of thy grace. We thank thee, heavenly Father, for the care and kindness we have experi-

enced at thy hand through the whole day. We specially desire to bless thee, O Lord, for the gracious things we have this evening heard out of thy blessed word. O make it greatly profitable to us, and to all who have thy word in their possession. We beseech thee, O Jehovah, Lord of heaven and earth, to bless all mankind. Enlighten the darkened, reform the sinner, and build up the believer in his most holy faith. Bless all nations and kingdoms; may they soon be all blessed in the Seed of Abraham, and become kingdoms of God and of his Christ. Bless specially our native land. May the government be established in righteousness, the church endowed with faithfulness, and the people clothed with holiness. Be a physician to the sick, a comforter to the mourner, a father to the fatherless, an husband to the widow, and a shield to the stranger. Bless with thy friendship our friends, reward with thy favor our benefactors, and subdue with thy grace our enemies. Forgive all our sins and short-comings in duty through the day. Take us under thy protection through the night, and fit us for all the duties of the ensuing day. Hear, Lord, in heaven, thy dwelling-place, this our humble prayer, and give us an answer of peace, seeing all that we ask is in Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—JOB I. II.

ETERNAL God, thy throne is in the heavens, and before that throne angels and redeemed spirits ever bow, ascribing glory, and honor, and praise, unto him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb forever. We bless thee, Almighty God, that thou dost permit us the exalted privilege of raising an altar to thee in our dwelling. It is to us as the earnest of the peace and blessedness of heaven, when, as a family, we bow us down here, and, for a time forgetting the world and its anxieties, hold communion with thee, the Father of our spirits. We confess, in deep humiliation of soul, how unworthy we are even to lift up our eyes to the place where thine honor dwelleth. In drawing near to a throne of grace, oft to thine eye has the depravity of our hearts been exhibited by the wandering of our thoughts, and the coldness of our affections, and the faintness of our desires. O Lord, we entreat that thou wilt now teach and enable us to wait on and worship thee in spirit and in truth. We draw near not in our own name or righteousness, for all our righteousnesses are but filthy rags. As guilty sinners we plead the sacrifice of Christ, and for his sake implore that all our sins may be forever blotted out from the book of thy remembrance. As Job offered a sacrifice for each of his children, so would we implore that each member of this household may obtain favor in thy sight. May we all find acceptance in the Beloved, and, through faith in the promises, be found heirs of grace here, and of glory hereafter. O our Father, if in accordance with thy will, we would pray thee to save us, and

those beloved ones bowing with us, from fearful calamities, and from sudden death. We entreat thy continued protection against the wiles of the wicked one, who goeth about seeking whom he may devour. Suffer us not to be led into temptation, and when we are tempted, make a way for our escape. Forbid, O God, that satan should so far get the advantage as that any of this family should ever be instrumental in leading others from the path of duty and of safety. May we rather be enabled to cheer each other's hearts in the day of darkness; to strengthen each other's faith in the time of trial; to encourage each other in an humble submission to thy will, in the faithful discharge of every duty, and in persevering efforts to obtain a place in glory. And now, O God, grant that at whatever time we may, as a family, be broken up, and called to an eternal world, we may again meet there, each renewed in the image of our Lord, cleansed in his blood, clothed in his righteousness, and prepared to spend eternity together in celebrating his praises. And to thy name will we ever ascribe all glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—ROMANS V.

O LORD, thou art worthy to receive blessing, and honor, and glory, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Thou madest man upright; but he has sought out many inventions. We confess, with shame, that whilst thou didst plant man a noble vine, wholly a right seed, we have become the degenerate plants of a strange vine. We were shapen in iniquity, and in sin did our mother conceive us. We are by nature the children of wrath, even as others. We have carnal minds, which are enmity against God, and are not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. We are born of the flesh, and in our flesh dwells no good thing. Our whole head is sick, our whole heart is faint, and from the sole of our foot to the crown of our head, there is no soundness in us, but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores. Our heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. O Lord, thou mightest justly separate us unto all evil, according to the curses of the broken covenant, and blot out our names from under heaven.—Thou mightest put into our guilty hands the cup of trembling, and make us drink it even to the very dregs. But thou hast not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us after our iniquities. Thou art God and not man, and therefore it is that we are not consumed. And now we adore thee, that, for us sinners, there is yet hope; that thy Son Jesus has been exalted a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and remission of sins. Grant, gracious God, that we may be washed from iniquity, and cleansed from sin. O wash us in the blood of the Lamb, and we shall be whiter than the snow. As Christ was made sin for

us, though he knew no sin, grant that we may be made the righteousness of God in him. We glory only in his cross, and we rejoice to call him the Lord our righteousness. For his sake do thou freely pardon us, and through him let us have access into that grace wherein believers stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Let the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. If any members of this family are yet dead in trespasses and sins, O let them be quickened. Open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan unto God. If in any of us thine own good work has been begun, do thou perfect that which concerns us. May we all have clean hearts created, and right spirits renewed within us; and being constrained by the love of Christ, may we live as those who have been born again. Give us this night to sleep sweetly, and to awake in health. May those we love be united with us in Christ; and may we all at length meet to rejoice in that rest which remains for the people of God. Hear in heaven our humble evening prayers; and to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, will we ever ascribe glory and praise. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JOB v

UNTO whom shall we come but unto thee, O Lord, in whom we live, and move, and have our being? Through another night thou hast preserved us, and we bless thee. Others have been tossing in the furnace, while we rested in peace; and many through the night have slept the sleep of death, while, though utterly unworthy of thy care, we have been privileged to see the light of another day, and to meet again around this altar. With humble and grateful hearts we would render to thee that praise which is most justly due. Teach us, O Lord, more and more of the evil nature and the bitter consequences of sin, that we may come to hate it with a perfect hatred, and be enabled to throw off its degrading yoke, and its cruel bondage. Give us grace to look on it as standing forth in the dark picture of human suffering; in the agonies of the cross; in the triumphs of death; and in the torments of the damned; and may we be filled with holy fear lest we sin. May we be watchful that we offend thee not in thought, or word, or deed. If in the temple of our hearts there be any idol set up, any accursed things hidden, O search those hearts as with a lighted candle, and bring forth and destroy whatever is hateful to thee. Though that evil thing should be valued as a right hand, enable us to cut it off; though dear as a right eye, strengthen us to pluck it out. We earnestly pray that sin may not have dominion over us, but that wrestling and striving in the might of the Holy Ghost, we may obtain the victory. Permit us, O God, to ask, that thou wilt spare us from severe suffering. With shame and sorrow do we confess how much we deserve it: and that wert thou to enter into

judgment with us, and to condemn us, we must acknowledge the justice of thy sentence. But approaching in the name of thy holy child Jesus, who has borne our sins and carried our sorrows, we would beseech thee to pity us as a father pitieth his children, and freely and fully to pardon us. If, Lord, thou see it necessary to lay on the rod, O let it be in tenderness. Take us not away from each other in thine anger, nor chasten in thy hot displeasure. Prepare us at all times for coming afflictions. Strengthen us under them, sanctify us by them, and make them to work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. For thy children who are now being chastened, and especially for any such who are dear to us, we entreat these blessings. May he who walked with the three children in the fiery furnace, who can sympathize in that he also suffered, make his grace sufficient for them, and at length bring them ransomed, regenerated, and sanctified, home to heaven. All we now ask is in his name, to whom, with thee, the Father and the Holy Ghost, we would ever ascribe all glory and praise. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—ROMANS VI.

Most holy and most gracious God, we draw nigh to bow on thy footstool, conscious of our unworthiness to approach thee, yet taking encouragement from thy kind invitations and thy precious promises. We bow down most humbly to acknowledge our great sinfulness. We confess that we have been the servants of sin; that iniquity has had dominion over us; and that we have most fully deserved the wages of sin, which is death. Long ere this thou mightest have cut us down, and assigned us our portion in that place where hope never cheers, and prayer is never heard. But thou hast had patience, and we now rejoice that there is mercy for the chief of sinners, even for those who were dead in trespasses and sins. Let us, O Lord, be partakers of that rich and free grace which bestows on the humblest believer eternal life through Jesus Christ. Grant that we may hear thy voice saying to each of us, Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee. However deep, or aggravated, or manifold they have been, blot them all out, and let the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, purge our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. As we are not under the law, but under grace, grant that no iniquity may have dominion over us. Let our old man be crucified with Christ, that the body of sin may be destroyed, that henceforth we may not serve sin; and let not sin reign in our mortal bodies, that we should obey it in the lusts thereof; but being made free from sin, let us become the servants of righteousness. Being baptized in the name of Christ, that it may be found we have been baptized into his death,—let us be buried with him in a complete separation from the pursuits of sin. Let us be planted together in the likeness of his death and

resurrection, that as he was raised from the dead by the glory of his Father, so we may also walk in newness of life. May our hearts be moulded by the gospel into the image and likeness of our Lord. Write thy laws on our hearts, that we may be the epistles of Christ; written by the Spirit of the living God, not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart. Make us to delight in the law of God after the inward man; and let us not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Not satisfied with what we may have already attained to, may we be found pressing continually forward to the mark of the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus. May we be not only dead unto sin, but as those made alive unto God. May we be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. May we work while it is day; and when the night of death cometh, may we be found ready, and waiting to enter into the joy of our Lord. And to thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be all the glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JOB VI.

WE come into thy presence, O God, to thank thee for the light and blessings of another day. We laid us down and slept, we waked again, for it was the Lord sustained us. In thine unerring wisdom thou hast cast a veil over the events of futurity; we know not what a day or an hour may bring forth. Enable us, at all times, to rejoice in the thought, that we have a Father in heaven who careth for us, who knoweth whereof we are made, and who remembereth that we are but dust. And if, Lord, for the trial of our faith, affliction is permitted to befall us, save us from repining against thee. Convince us that thy way is the right way. Make us submit to thy will in all things, not because thou art infinitely powerful, but because we know that thou art infinitely good. Keep us from dishonoring thee by unworthy thoughts of thy dealings and character. Make us from the heart to say, It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth unto him good. Keep us this day from danger and sin. When engaged in the business of time, let us never forget the concerns of eternity. Help us to remember how short and uncertain life is; how soon we must leave this world and go to our account. Grant that every day added to our lives may find us loving thee more, and serving thee better, and at last may we be fitted to spend in heaven an eternal day of rest and glory. Look down mercifully upon us, O thou preserver of men, and pardon our sins. For the sake of our crucified Redeemer, blot out all our iniquities, receive us into thy favor, and let thy banner over us be love. O grant that before we sleep in the dust, our peace may be made with thee, our meetness for heaven may be complete. With ourselves, we pray thee to bless our rela-

tions and friends. Let their souls be precious in thy sight. May thy kingdom come. May thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Let the people praise thee, O Lord, let all the people praise thee. Hear in heaven, thy dwelling-place, the voice of our morning supplication, which we present before thee in the name of our once crucified, but now exalted Saviour. And to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, be everlasting praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ROMANS VII.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, we come this evening before thy throne imploring thee to have mercy upon us, and to hear our prayers. We are ashamed, and blush to lift up our faces unto thee, for our iniquities have increased over our heads, and our trespass is grown up into the very heavens. We are wise to do evil; but to do good we have no knowledge. Our best resolutions have been as the morning cloud and early dew, that passeth away. O Lord, enlighten our darkened understandings. Give us more clear and correct views of the purity of thy holy law; and under a deep sense of our great and manifold offences, bring each of us before thee with the earnest cry, God be merciful to me a sinner. We mourn over our sinful and corrupted hearts; we lament our proneness to the world and earthly things. Take away, O God, the spirit of delusion. Forbid that any of us should say to our souls, Peace, peace, where there is no peace. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. If any now in thy presence be far from thee, any in the gall of bitterness and bond of iniquity, O teach him his danger, spare him time to repent before it be too late. Grant that the poor wanderer may be brought back to thy fold, and made to rejoice in the message of the gospel. Make us all to know the love and compassion of our divine Redeemer, and, in our blessed experience, to feel the joy and peace of believing. Exposed as we are to many temptations, we look up to thee for aid. Send down thy holy Spirit to strengthen and uphold us. Enable us to fight the good fight of faith. Be thou, O God, our guardian and our friend. May thy divine arm support us amidst all the dangers and trials through which we are destined to pass. Putting on the whole armor of God, may we triumph over every adversary; may we be more than conquerors through him that loved us. May the experience of thy love, and the assurances of thine affection, animate us under every trial. When heart and flesh faint and fail, be thou, O God, the strength of our heart, and our portion forever. Bless all our friends. Keep us safely this night, guide us in all our ways, and fit us for thy heavenly kingdom. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, and his Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JOB IX.

THOU, Lord, art high and lifted up; thou sittest upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; thou stretchest out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadest them out as a tent to dwell in. Give us, we beseech thee, just conceptions of thy power, thy wisdom, and thy goodness. Convince us that it is vain to contend against thee, or to seek for happiness where thou hast forbidden us to walk. We beseech thee, Lord, to endure each of us with a meek and charitable frame of spirit towards all our fellow-men. Suffer us not to assume thy right, or attempt to pass judgment upon their spiritual state; but enable us to strive and pray for the conversion of all around us. Enlighten our minds in the knowledge of heavenly truth, and make us to see and acknowledge our own guilt and pollution. If we justify ourselves, our own mouths shall condemn us; if we say we are perfect, it shall also prove us perverse. Behold us, O Lord, prostrate at thy throne. We are helpless in ourselves; but we are encouraged by thy promises. We come unto thee through him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Look upon the face of thine Anointed. Hear the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. Enable us to renounce every self-righteous plea, and to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. Save us, O God, we beseech thee, not only from the punishment, but also from the power of sin. Deliver us from its bondage. Let it not have dominion over us; but, walking as children of light, may we adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. Let our path be as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. May thy blessing attend us in all the duties of the day on which we are entered. Preserve us from every danger, and keep us especially from the commission of sin. Let not the temptations of the world, nor the allurements of pleasure, nor any of our temporal interests, ever seduce us from the path that leads to glory. Forgetting those things which are behind, may we reach forth unto those things which are before; may we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Bless, we humbly beseech thee, all our friends. Some of them are far from us; but we rejoice that they are near to thee. Guide them by thy wisdom, protect them by thy power. Grant them so much of temporal good as thou seest to be conducive to their eternal welfare; but, above all things, bestow upon them those true riches that shall endure for evermore. Hear us, O God of our salvation, and grant us an answer in mercy and peace, since all we ask is for the sake of our Redeemer Jesus Christ, who is the Lord our righteousness, God over all, blessed for evermore. Amen

THURSDAY EVENING.—ROMANS VIII.

WE adore thee, heavenly Father, that on those subjects on which our eternal interests are suspended, we are not abandoned to the dim uncertain light of reason, but have thy word to be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our paths. Glory be to thy name, O God, in the highest, who, by the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ, hast opened to the heavy-laden sinner the gates of heaven, and pointed out to the weary pilgrim the path to eternal rest. We rejoice to contemplate the privileges of thy people, to be assured that there is no condemnation to those which are in Christ Jesus. O may we be united to him, by faith, as branches to the vine, and members to the head of the body. Enable us, we beseech thee, to walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. Control, O God of purity and holiness, our actions, words, and desires. Let them never rise up in rebellion against thee; but subdue them to thy will, and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Give us the spirit of adoption. Enable us to trust in thee with filial reverence and love. May the Spirit bear witness with our spirit, that we are thy children, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. If in thy providence we are doomed to suffering, let not our confidence in thee be shaken; but cheered by the assurance of thy love, and animated by the hope of everlasting happiness, let us with patience wait thy time of deliverance. May the Spirit help our infirmities; may he teach us to pray, and excite more ardent desires for an abiding sense of thy favor, and a participation of thy glory. We rejoice in thee, the God of our salvation. We commit our immortal interests to thy care. O Lord, assure us of thy love. Make us to know, that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Thou hast mercifully preserved us from the arrow that flieth by day; keep us also from the pestilence that walketh in darkness. We will both lay us down in peace, and sleep, for thou, Lord, only makest us dwell in safety. Bless and keep all our relatives and friends. Make them, we beseech thee, partakers of thy grace, and heirs of thy kingdom. Hear, O God, and answer us in mercy, since all we ask is for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose words we sum up the desires of our hearts, Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.—JOB XII.

O THOU, whose name alone is Jehovah, and who art the Most High over all the earth, blessed and only Potentate, King of kings, and Lord of lords, we would humbly bow in adoring reverence be-

fore thee. O our God, we are ashamed, and blush to lift up our faces before thee, for our iniquities are increased over our heads, and our trespasses have grown up into the heavens. Behold we are vile, and we cannot answer thee. We would lay our hands upon our mouths, and put our mouths in the dust this morning before thee, and, like the polluted leper, lift up our cry, Unclean! Unclean! O what reason have we to bless thee that there is a fountain open to the house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. O wash us and we shall be clean; purify us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Lord, thou hast promised, that if we confess and forsake our sin we shall find mercy with thee. Alas! we, like all flesh, must confess that we have corrupted our way; we have been alienated from the life of God by reason of the ignorance and blindness of our hearts. O forgive wherein in time past we have walked in the way of our own heart, and in the sight of our own eyes, fulfilling the desire of the flesh and of the mind. Enable us henceforth to walk by faith. Show us thy mercy, O Lord. Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Lord, give us thy good Spirit. May our hearts be filled with love, joy, and peace. Enable us to exercise long-suffering and goodness. Increase our faith, make us gentle toward all men, and strengthen us to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present evil world. We give thee hearty thanks for preserving us during the watches of the night. We have laid ourselves down, and slept in safety, for God sustained us. We bless thee, O Lord, for our domestic comforts; but more especially would we bless thee for the means of grace we still enjoy. We beseech thee this day to defend us from evil, and to guide us by thy Spirit to all good. Sanctify all our motives and purposes. May our conversation be as becometh the gospel. If called by thee to suffer, may we endure affliction patiently. May all our trials be sanctified. Grant us daily to die unto sin, and make us meet for the inheritance among the saints in light. O Lord, if agreeable to thy will, continue to prosper our native land. Leave not, we beseech thee, our rulers and governors to their own counsels, lest our candlestick be removed, and darkness, even thick darkness, should cover the people. O righteous Father, do for us exceeding abundantly above what we can ask or think, and supply all our needs according to thy riches in glory by Jesus Christ. Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, be unto the Lord our God forever and ever Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—ROMANS IX.

O THOU most blessed Jehovah, we, thy rebellious creatures, would come into thy presence, but only on the ground of thy gracious invitation, and in the way of thine own appointment. We would humbly and gratefully confess, that our every privilege and blessing

comes from thee, and is the gift of thy sovereign and unmerited grace, and that the continuance of them depends on thy sovereign will. O Lord, we humbly beseech thee grant us grace to improve our privileges and to prize our blessings, and forbid that we should come into condemnation for abusing them. In all lowliness of mind, help us to watch unto prayer; and regarding thy sovereign favors as beyond all price, and as the gifts of thy love in the blood of thy dear Son, may we stir up our whole hearts to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, that thy love may be magnified, and thy grace glorified in us. Lord, thou art God alone; on thy word our life hangs; on thy word is suspended our eternal state. O thou that bearest long with the vessels of wrath, and hast with much long-suffering borne with us, grant still a continuance of thy sparing mercy; and do thou, who canst out of vessels of wrath raise up vessels of mercy, turn us from being children of wrath to be thy children, even children of the living God. O wash us thoroughly from all our sins, and justify us freely by thy grace, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. We glorify thee that this, the land of our birth, so long a land of darkness, has become a land of light; and that in this place, where it was said, Ye are not my people, thou beholdest now the dear children of thine own family. O Lord, thou hast brought this to pass in sovereign grace. Continue thy goodness, multiply the number of thy chosen in this land, until the people be all righteous, and visit in sovereign mercy the whole earth, and especially the seed of Abraham, that they may yet again rejoice as thy covenant people. Revive thy work, we most humbly beseech thee, in the midst of the years. Pour down thy quickening Spirit upon us, and our hearts shall be filled with thy love—our lips shall be opened to show forth thy praises, and from us shall sound abroad thy word unto those that sit in darkness. Into thy hands we commend our souls, and the souls of all our kindred and friends. Be gracious to us, and bless us; and all we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—JOB XIV.

THOU everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who faintest not, neither art weary, we would approach thee in the name of Jesus. We feel assured that there is an infinite distance between us fallen and depraved sinners, and thee, the God of all perfection. Thou art the Almighty; we but worms of the dust. Thou art the King eternal; we creatures but of yesterday. Conscious of our unworthiness we draw near, trembling in our approach to thee. By nature sinners, conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity, how shall we stand before thee? guilty of transgressions more numerous than the hairs upon our heads, how can we bear the piercing glance of thine eye, which searcheth the hearts and trieth

the reins of the children of men? God be merciful to us, sinners. O thou who art exalted a Prince and a Saviour to give repentance and remission of sins, compassionate our low and lost estate, wash us in the fountain of thy cleansing blood, and take away all our sins. Create a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within us. Make us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom: Give us that wisdom that cometh down from above, that is pure and peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Strengthen our hearts to resist temptation, and enable us in all things to seek thy glory. Turn our eyes away from beholding vanity, and incline our heart unto thy testimonies. As the days of our pilgrimage are both few and evil, do thou give us grace to redeem the time. Help us, O Lord, to run the race set before us, laying aside every weight, and the sin which doth most easily beset us. Sanctify our thoughts. Let our speech this day be seasoned with salt, that it may minister grace to those who hear it; and whatsoever we do in word or deed, do thou enable us to do all to thy glory. Knowing the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, may that day never come upon us unawares. May we study to die daily, so that when Jesus Christ shall say, Behold, I come quickly, our hearts may be able to say, Even so come, Lord Jesus. And now, Lord, what wait we for? truly our hope is in thee. May the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ROMANS X.

WE adore thee, O thou most blessed God, as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we are permitted to draw near unto thee. Blessed be thy name, that though every mouth is stopped, and we are brought in guilty before thee, we may yet look up to thee for pardon and forgiveness through the precious blood of the atoning Redeemer. We glorify thy name that his salvation is offered without money and without price, and offered to all without respect of persons. We glorify thee that it meets our every want, and provides grace to quicken us to seek its blessings. We bless thee, that the blessing of salvation is brought so near to us, and so pressed upon our acceptance. We thank thee, that we have not to labor to bring Christ from glory to die for us, or up from the grave to plead in our behalf. We glorify thee, that he hath died for our offences, and risen again for our justification. O Lord, work in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and thy work of faith with power. Help us as needy, perishing, and condemned, to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ; to confess with the mouth, and believe from

the heart, that thou hast raised him from the dead that we may be saved. And do thou arise in thy mighty power to spread the glory of the name of Jesus till his gospel sound through all the earth, and his gracious invitations to the end of the world. Raise up, and send forth, many laborers—men wisely zealous for thy cause, and true lovers of the souls of men; crown their work of faith with abundant success, and give them souls for their hire. And remember, we beseech thee, the seed of Abraham. Our hearts' desire and prayer to thee is, that Israel may be saved. O take away the veil that is upon their hearts when Moses is preached to them. Bring them speedily again under the bonds of the covenant. And, O Lord, prevent us by thy grace from falling under the same obstinate unbelief. Help us more and more to prize and to improve our privileges. Pardon all our past neglect and indifference, our manifold shortcomings, our unnumbered transgressions; and receive us graciously, and sanctify us fully, to bear the image of Christ. For his sake visit us with thy constant mercy. Keep us this night in thy holy fear and keeping. Preserve us to thy heavenly kingdom, and do us all the good we need, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Thirty-First Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM LXXXIX. 28-52.

ALMIGHTY God, we pray thee to lift upon us, on this the morning of thine own day, the light of thy countenance, and to visit us with that blessing which alone maketh rich. In all the duties which lie before us, vouchsafe to us that preparation of the heart without which no service performed by us can be acceptable to thee, or profitable to ourselves. Convince us of the value of the privileges enjoyed by us; humble us under a sense of how little we have appreciated them as we should; and enable us to bear in mind, that unless they be the savor of life, they must inevitably become the savor of death to our souls. Unworthy we are, O Lord, that such honor should be ours, thus to be permitted to hold converse with thee. O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee, whose are the heavens and the earth, the world and all its fulness. Thou hast a mighty arm; strong is thy hand, and high thy right hand. But blessed be thy name, that to us thou art revealed as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; and as made known in him, we see that while justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, mercy and truth go before thy face. O may it be our happiness to become possessed of right and spiritual perception of thy character

as thus announced; to feel the power of those glad tidings of great joy, God in Christ, laying our help upon One that is mighty, and beseeching us to be reconciled. May the enmity of our hearts be slain, and the constraining influence of thy love make us dedicate ourselves entirely to thee. May every thought be brought under subjection to thine authority, that it may become our meat and drink to do thy will; and whatever be thy dealings towards us, enable us of this to be confident, that all things are made to work for good to those that love thee. In prosperity and adversity alike teach us to place ourselves implicitly at thy disposal. May the Lord be our defence, the holy One of Israel our king. We pray of thee, O God, to go forth this day with the preaching of the gospel, and to hasten the period when its joyful sound shall be heard over the length and breadth of the world. Accept of our thanks for thy care over us during the night; keep us, and all whom we should bear upon our hearts before a throne of grace, during this day; and accept of us in the name of Christ. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM XC.

THOU only, O Lord, art from everlasting to everlasting, amid the changes to which everything earthly lies exposed. Thou only art without variableness or shadow of turning; God over all, blessed forever. We thank and praise thy name, for the mighty privilege we enjoy of holding converse with thee; that we can look up to thee as the hearer and answerer of prayer, and know thou never hast, and never shalt say to any one, Seek my face in vain. But, O Lord, we confess with sorrow and shame, that too frequently we have little care to participate in the comfort which communion with thee is so qualified to afford us; our souls cleave to the dust; the world and its affairs are ever apt to engross our affections to the exclusion of any thoughts of thee. Poor and paltry as are the things which are seen, in comparison with those that are unseen, yet are the former the objects of our constant regard, whilst the latter too frequently have no place in our thoughts at all. O God, have mercy upon us. Pour out upon us thine own life-giving Spirit, to awaken us from our lethargy, to enable us to feel the power of the truth, that we may break asunder those chains by which we are kept in bondage, and become partakers of that liberty wherewith thou dost make thy people free. Impress upon us the uncertainty of the tenure by which we hold everything earthly. Teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Convince us that here we have no continuing city nor place of abode; that we know not how soon the time may come when we shall be summoned to render an account before the judgment-seat of Christ. O then that we were begotten again to a lively hope through the resurrection of Christ from the dead; that our life, being hid with Christ in God, we were

enabled to have our affections set upon things above, and to look forward to our Lord's second coming, not with terror, but with joy. Lord, satisfy us with thy mercy; let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish all the works of our hands. Follow, O God, with thy blessing, the various services in which thy people were this day engaged. May thy word have been as the rain and snow which come down from heaven, and watering the earth, make it bring forth and bud. Have mercy, we pray of thee, on all who despise thine ordinances; and keep us mindful that if our privileges are great, so also is our responsibility. We commend to thy care all who are near and dear to us. May they and we be one in him, in whom the whole family, both in heaven and earth, is named. Keep us during the silent watches of the night. We lay ourselves down, believing that thou wilt sustain us. And all we ask is in the name of Christ. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.--JOB XVIII.

THOU, O God, art of unspotted purity; thou sittest upon the throne of thy holiness; thou dwellest in the high and holy place, and all thy commands are just, and holy, and true. In approaching thee, how does it become such guilty and polluted creatures as we are, to acknowledge our unworthiness even to take thy name, thy most holy name, into our lips. Lord, we would be prostrate in the dust before thee; we would seek, from our hearts, to be enabled to say, God be merciful to us sinners. Our eyes are upon that hill from whence alone can come our aid. Our hope is in him whom thou hearest always; and because he hath made an end of sin, and brought in an everlasting righteousness, and now ever lives our Advocate with thee the Father, we pray thee, receive us graciously, to subdue all our iniquities, and cast all our transgressions into the depths of the sea. We bless thee for Christ Jesus, thine unspeakable gift. O that our hearts felt the constraining influence of the love manifested in sending him to seek and to save; that we were taught we are not our own, but bound to glorify thee in our souls and bodies, which are entirely thine. And, heavenly Father, we pray that wherever we are, or in whatever avocation engaged, we may remember that from thee all we have come down; that thou art the source of every blessing we enjoy, and hope we are permitted to indulge. Save us, therefore, from losing sight of the Creator in the creature; deliver us from the tendency so strong within us, to forsake the fountain of living waters, and hew out to ourselves broken cisterns that can hold no water. Follow, with thy blessing, that portion of thy word now read. Teach us that whether in sorrow or joy, sickness or health, it is the peace of God alone can keep our hearts and minds. May this peace be ours. We thank thee for the circumstances of comfort and

peace, in which we are this morning permitted to approach thee. Do thou, O Lord, be our protector throughout the day. We commend to thy care, the sick and the afflicted. Sanctify bereavements to the bereaved, and prepare us for every duty and trial that may be before us. And hear our prayers for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—ROMANS XI.

How unsearchable, O God, are thy judgments, how past finding out are thy ways to us! Thou sittest upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers in thy sight; thou rulest in heaven, and dost as seems to thee right among the children of men, and who can say to thee with a prevailing voice, What, or wherefore, doest thou? Enable us, O Lord, to contemplate all thy ways and works in that spirit of simplicity and docility which should characterize worms of the dust such as we are. Blessed be thy name, that to that man wilt thou look who is of an humble and contrite spirit, and trembleth at thy word. Give us, we pray, this frame of mind. Mould our hearts into conformity to thy will. Although thy way often appears to us in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, enable us ever to remember that he who spared not his own Son, will, with him also, freely give us all things; so that not one good thing shall fail of all thou hast said concerning thy people. We thank thee for the grace and the goodness of which we are partakers. What are we, O Lord, or our father's house, to have been thus visited and redeemed by thee. O teach us, that by thy grace we are what we are; and from our hearts may we say, Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake. Enable us to take warning from thy dealings of old, recorded for our learning. Lord, increase our faith, help our unbelief, strengthen the things that remain, revive thy work in us and around us. And, O God, we pray of thee to hasten that period when the whole earth shall be filled with thy glory; when the blindness shall be taken away from Israel, and the fulness of the Gentiles be gathered in; prosper the means employed for the furtherance of this mighty end; teach us what a privilege it is to be fellow-workers with thee. Convince us, above everything else, that except the Lord build the house, we labor in vain; that unless he keep the city, we watch in vain. O then may thy blessing be abundantly poured forth, and thy Spirit come from the four winds, to quicken the dead, and strengthen the living more and more. May the joy of our Lord be our strength. Lord, watch over us during our goings out and comings in this day. Be the friend of our friends. Reward our benefactors, and forgive our enemies; and all we ask, is in the name of Christ, to whom with thee and the blessed Spirit, be glory forever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JOB XXI.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we, as the subjects of thy government, draw near to thee as our king. We rejoice to behold thee as thou art revealed in the gospel, seated upon a throne of grace, and stretching forth the sceptre of thy mercy, that the perishing children of men may touch it, and forever live. Sanctify, we beseech thee, our approach at this time. Unite our hearts to fear thy name. Graciously enable us to view our character in the light of thy law, which is holy, and in contrast with thy nature, which is glorious and pure. While we ascribe all strength and majesty unto the Lord, may we feel and confess ourselves to be frail, helpless, and perishing. Out of the dust we have been taken, and soon shall we return unto the dust again. While we adore thee as the Holy One of Israel, may we discover ourselves to be altogether vile. Alas, we have nothing to hope for from thy justice. O how many are the tokens thou hast given, since the world began, that though hand joined in hand, yet shall not the wicked go unpunished. O Lord our God, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day. Our iniquities have gone up, as our accusers, into the very heavens; and unless thy grace interpose, they will appear in the judgment to condemn us. O thou who hast declared thyself to be slow to anger, of great kindness, and plenteous in redemption, do thou, we implore thee, have compassion upon us. For the sake of Jesus Christ, the Lamb slain as an offering for sin, do thou be pleased to visit us with the grace of pardon and acceptance. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out all our transgressions. But we are sensible that in vain shall we look for the gift of pardon, unless we repent; in vain shall we hope for the glories of heaven, unless we turn from the vanities of earth; turn us, therefore, O Lord, and so we shall be turned. Pour out on us a spirit of repentance. Remove not only our guilt, but likewise our depravity. Remit not only our punishment, but restrain also our passions. Create in us a clean heart, renew a right spirit within us; and, though we are by nature degenerate plants, yet may we become as trees of righteousness planted by the rivers of waters, which bear fruits in their season— even the fruits of a holy, humble, and useful life; that so we may please him who hath called us to glory and virtue. We entreat thee, O gracious Father, that thou mayest be a sun to enlighten us during the day we have begun, as thou hast been a shield to defend us during the night that is past. Do thou direct our steps. May we be found setting our heart on no object, and our hand to no work, but what we know has thy holy approval. Many, O Lord, are our spiritual adversaries, let thy good Spirit instruct and help us, so that we may be wise to shun, or strong to resist, temptation. May the love of Christ constrain us to duty, and the example of Christ encourage in trouble. And while, by thy grace, our souls

are kept from sin, defend, we beseech thee, our bodies also from danger—from all sudden malady—from all fatal accident. Under the shadow of thy wing may we continually abide. Going forth in the morning to our several pursuits, attended by thy blessing, may we, in the evening, again be gathered together, crowned with thy loving-kindness, and having in us the answer of a good conscience, through Jesus Christ our friend and Mediator. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—ROMANS XII.

O LORD, most merciful and gracious, we come to thee as children unto a father. Blessed be thy name, thou hast been pleased to reveal thyself to us in this tender and endearing relation. For thou didst create us, thou hast preserved us, and thou hast also begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. O do thou enable us, in confidence and affection, to cry, Abba, Father. Worshipping one God, through one Mediator between God and man, may we come animated by one spirit—even the spirit of faith, of love, and of hope. Help us, we entreat thee, devoutly to feel, and reverently to express, what is due unto thy name. Honoring thee by our attitude and our lips, let not our hearts be far from thee. Who, O Lord, is worthy, like thee, to receive all honor, and blessing, and praise? Thy majesty is unspeakable, and thy mercies toward us are more than can be numbered. Through thy sparing goodness, we have been upheld during another day of our pilgrimage; and the shadows of the evening again close around us in peace. Accept, we beseech thee, our united thanksgiving for thy powerful protection, and thy unwearied care, for the happiness we have enjoyed, and the evils we have escaped, for health of body and peace of mind, for the use of reason, and the prolonged offers of thy grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. For these and all thy other gifts, though we cannot render an adequate return, we would yet cherish a grateful remembrance. We are sensible indeed, O righteous Father, that, though thou hast nourished and brought us up, we have, nevertheless, proved rebellious children. Thy mercies do but aggravate our offences. Our experience testifies that thou hast dealt bountifully with us; but our conscience witnesseth that we have dealt treacherously towards thee. We bow in thy presence, convicted of sin. Spare us, we implore thee, the doom we have deserved. O let thy pardoning mercy which was not refused to the penitent publican, be imparted to our souls. Whatever thy pure eye has seen amiss in our conduct, during this day and all the days of our by-past life, whatever has been the nature or the color of our offences, whatever the circumstances of their commission—whether our faults have been secret, or our sins presumptuous; O may the blood of Christ which cleanseth from all sin, be graciously applied for their removal and forgiveness. Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief; so that

being justified by faith we may have peace with God. And do thou so effectually work in us by the power of thy Holy Spirit, that our escape from the penalty of transgression, far from encouraging us to go on in sin that grace may abound, shall lead us, in lively gratitude, to live unto him who died for us, and to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. No longer deluded by the vanities of the world, or by the influence of our spiritual adversaries, may we sit daily at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in our right mind; listening to its lessons, glorying in his cross, imbibing his Spirit, and waiting for his kingdom. Many, O Lord, our heavenly Father, are the stumbling-blocks and discouragements that meet us in our progress. In mercy unto our weakness, do thou remove these out of the way, or impart the measure of faith and grace needful to surmount them. In prosperity, let us remember that pride goeth before destruction, and may we strive to walk humbly before God. In adversity, let us remember that some of the children of Israel murmured and were destroyed of the destroyer, and may we hear the lesson while we feel the rod: rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulations, continuing instant in prayer. Upheld and animated by thee amidst all the trials of our life and our faith, may our path be that of the just, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. We humbly commend unto thy goodness and compassion all with whom we are connected in the bonds of kindred, of friendship, or of grace. May the young who are related to us be a seed to serve thee. May the aged be found in righteousness, and let their gray hairs be to them a crown of glory. Committing ourselves to thy Almighty protection, we retire to our repose. O God of Bethel, who with thy ministering angels, didst watch over thy chosen servant Jacob, do thou graciously guard and defend us this night from all evil; and raise us up in the morning to praise thy name and to do thy holy will. This we ask through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JOB XXIX.

GRACIOUS and ever-living God, who art the Ruler of heaven and earth, the Creator and Judge of angels and of men, with thee is the fountain of life, and to thee shall all flesh come. In thee we live, and move, and have our being. All our well-springs are in thee. Mercifully be pleased to listen unto us, while in lowly reverence we come, owning our guilt, with our obligations, and entreating thy gracious aid. It is through the merits and mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ, that we draw near to address thee. On what other ground can we venture into thy presence? Thou only art holy. Evil shall not dwell with thee, neither shall the doers of evil stand in thy sight. The imaginations of our hearts have been evil, and that continually. We are all as an unclean thing. Our righteousness is but

as filthy rags. We all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away. We have wearied thy patience; we have misapplied thy gifts; we have resisted thy government; we have quenched thy Spirit, and in the presumption of our hearts we have said, Who is the Almighty that we should serve him; and what profit is there, if we pray unto him? O Lord, most merciful and holy, enter not into judgment with us. For the sake of him who poured out his soul unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors, let us now obtain thy favor, which is better than life, and hereafter let us be numbered among thy saints in glory. Our sins have come between thee and our souls, intercepting the light of thy countenance; do thou, we beseech thee, blot them out as a cloud, and our transgressions as a thick cloud; and may we return unto thee, for thou hast redeemed us. By all our felt obligations as creatures, by all the dealings of thy providence, by all the constraining influences of thy word and Spirit, by the cords of a man, and by the bands of love, do thou draw us near to thyself, the blessed fountain of happiness and peace. Be thou henceforth our portion: and let thy law be our delight. May frequent communion with thee hallow our intercourse with the world. Like thy servant Moses, may we endure as seeing him who is invisible. Like Caleb, may we follow the Lord fully; and may our resolution, like that of Joshua, be, that whatever others may do, as for us and our house, we will serve the Lord. O God of our fathers, we humbly implore that, as a family, we may see much of thy goodness in the land of the living, and that thou mayest prepare our hearts by thy grace for the changes that are sooner or later to befall us. We cannot penetrate the veil that hides the future. We know not what a day may bring forth. Soon our faith may be severely tried by prosperity or by adversity. Soon we may be scattered by providence, or separated by death. Shepherd of Israel, go thou before our face, prepare our way before us. Hold up our goings, and we shall be safe. Preserve us from the error of the wicked, and our feet shall not slide. What thou givest, may we receive with humble gratitude; what thou takest away, may we resign with meekness and patience. Avoiding the extremes to which our sinful nature is prone, may we neither despise the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when we are rebuked of him. Grant unto us, we beseech thee, a happy issue out of all our afflictions; and, at death, an abundant entrance into the kingdom of heaven. Fit us for meeting with thee our final judge; and as this morning we have risen from a bed of refreshing sleep, to praise thee in the land of the living, O may we, on the morning of the resurrection, be raised from the bed of death, a rejoicing family, to give praise unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—ROMANS XIII.

O LORD our God, who searchest the hearts and triest the reins of the children of men, we bow before thee as sinners, who stand in need of pardon and of peace. Convinced of our danger, we flee for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us. In Christ Jesus once crucified but now crowned, thou art declaring thyself to be just, and the justifier of him that believeth. Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief. In him we rejoice; Lord, let our joy be unspeakable and full of glory. Behold God is our salvation; we will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah is our strength and our song. Therefore, with joy shall we draw water out of the wells of salvation. We are the partakers of numberless gifts; but Christ the Lord is thy unspeakable gift. O may we prize and appropriate him as the treasure of our souls, as the source of our present and our endless joy. If there be any amongst us who have not yet received him as a Saviour from sin, and a teacher of holiness, do thou, in thy great pity and compassion, pour out on the erring soul a spirit of repentance, unite savingly to him, and turn the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. Those amongst us who have experienced the blessed change, do thou graciously strengthen and encourage. Send forth thy light and thy truth, and let them be our guides. And may our path be that of the just, shining more and more unto the perfect day. May the love of Christ constrain us, so that we henceforth live not unto ourselves, but unto him that died for us and rose again. O for a livelier sense of the debt we owe unto him, that we may glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits which are his. O for a larger measure of his love within us, that meekness, temperance, brotherly-kindness, and charity may shed their lustre and their loveliness over every day of our lives. O that Christ were not only formed in us the hope of glory, but that we were found growing up into spiritual perfection. While we thus pray for ourselves, we plead with thee, as the great Father of all, in behalf also of our friends. Be thou to them a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Wherever they dwell, let them abide under the shadow of thy wing. In the hour of temptation, cover thou them with thy feathers; and in the time of trouble, hide them in thy pavilion. Grant that they and we may be so kept from the follies to which we are prone, and so assisted in the duties to which we are called—so impressed by thy fear, and so cheered by thy promise, that after having finished our course with joy, we may enter into the blessed inheritance, there to be ever with the Lord. Prepare, we beseech thee, a people for serving thee on earth, and for enjoying thee in heaven. Succor and crown the labors of thy missionaries and ministers in every land of the world. Give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. We commit ourselves to thy care during the dark and defenceless watches of the night: ascribing to thee all honor and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JOB xxxviii.

O LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. Of old hast thou laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish; but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment, and as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. We thank thee with united voices this morning, that in thy good providence, and of thy sparing mercy, we have had our lives prolonged to behold the light of a new day. And now again we desire to approach thee through the new and living way, into the holiest of all, even our Lord Jesus Christ, and pray that we may obtain mercy to pardon and grace to help us in every time of need. Impart unto us of the grace of thy Spirit, whereby we may be enabled throughout this day to serve thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear, even amidst the secularities of this life. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all things to thy glory. And with singleness of eye looking forward to eternity, may we by thy grace be enabled to use this world as not abusing it; to weep as though we wept not, to rejoice as though we rejoiced not, and to buy as though we possessed not, seeing that the fashion of this world passeth away. And this we likewise pray, that our love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all judgment, that we may discern things that differ, and approve things that are excellent; that we may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God. We thank thee for the glad tidings of salvation which have reached our ears, and we pray thee to send them home to our hearts. We bless thee that it is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, even the very chief. O may he of God be made unto us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. May we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins, through the exceeding riches of thy grace, which have abounded towards us through Jesus Christ our Lord. We do bless thee that thou hast laid our help upon one who is mighty and able to save; yea, able to save to the very uttermost all that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Thou hast made him, who knew no sin, to be a sin-offering for sinners; so in like manner do thou make us, who of ourselves know no righteousness, to be made the righteousness of God in him, that being justified freely through thy grace in him, we may be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Preserve us during this day from all danger. Lead us not into temptation; but preserve us from evil. Bring us home again after our dispersion, not one of us

being absent through the influence of sin or the occurrence of calamity, that as now we cast ourselves upon thy care, so then we may thank thy fatherly guidance and protection. These our prayers are now before thee. Hear us in mercy, forgive us and do us good, for the sake of Christ Jesus thy Son, to whom, with thee the Father, and the blessed Spirit, one God, be ascribed all praise, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—ROMANS XIV.

O LORD God, who art the Father of all mercies, the God of all grace, the giver of every good and perfect gift, in approaching thee we rejoice with trembling that this is thy name, and thy memorial to all generations. The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty. O do thou enable us to estimate aright the obligations under which thy mercy has laid us. Thou hast redeemed us not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. May the love of Christ then constrain us to live no longer unto ourselves, but to him who died for us and rose again. Buried with him, by baptism, into death, like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so may we walk in newness of life. May our old man be crucified with him, that the body of sin may be destroyed, that henceforth we may not serve sin. May the grace of God, which bringeth salvation, appear unto us, teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live holily, righteously, and godly, in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, even our Saviour Christ Jesus, who gave himself for us, that he might cleanse us from all iniquity, and purify us unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. We must truly confess, that in many things we transgress thy most holy law, and times and ways without number provoke thee to wrath against us. But, O Lord, mind not against us former sins, but have mercy upon us according to thy loving-kindness. According to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sins. Hide thy face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O Lord, and renew right spirits within us. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation, and uphold us with thy free Spirit. Do thou sprinkle clean water upon us, that we may be clean from all our filthiness, and from all our defilements do thou cleanse us. A new heart, also, do thou give us, and a new spirit do thou put within us, and do thou take away the hard and stony heart out of our flesh, and give unto us an heart of flesh, upon which do thou write thy law, and cause us

to walk in thy statutes, and keep thy judgments and do them. O do thou implant in our hearts that love which is the fulfilling of the law, a supreme love unto thee, and a love unto our neighbor even as unto ourselves, manifesting itself in doing unto him what we wish that he should do unto us. May we have a tender regard to our brother's comfort, and even consent to sacrifice our own rights, and abridge our own liberties, rather than offend and cause him to stumble. O Lord, we pray for all lawfully constituted authority throughout the world, but especially for our chief magistrate. Do thou now enable us to thank thee in a becoming manner for the preservation of the past day. Forgive all the sins we have committed. O let thy good hand be around us this night. May we lie down in peace, taking our quiet rest under the shadow of thy wing. These our prayers we present, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—JOB XL.

O LORD our God, thou art exceeding great, and works by thee are done which are to be had in remembrance. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God, filling space with thine immensity, and eternity with thy duration. How truly may we take up, each one of us for himself, the language of thy servant, and say, Whither shall I go from thy spirit, or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there; if I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me; yea, the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. We thank thee, O Lord, for the rest and preservation of the past night. It is of thy gracious and providential care, of thy fatherly love and goodness, that we have been ushered into the light of a new day, and in the possession and enjoyment of such manifold mercies of which we are so very undeserving. O that we might remember our obligations unto the Lord, and our duties to God our Saviour! We go forth this day to our varied engagements, and avocations of life. We know not the snares and pit-falls by which our path is environed, the temptations and the dangers by which we may be assailed. We know not the bereavements, the rains, the perils, we may be called upon to encounter, and it may be to endure. We, therefore, seek to cast ourselves upon thy care; and we pray that as our Father in Christ thou wouldst strengthen us for duty, fortify us for trial, shield us from danger, and succor us in the hour of need. Ward off every stroke of calamity, we pray thee, or soften its fall, or strengthen our hearts to bear it; humble our wills to acquiesce in it, and sanctify it to our spiritual improvement and growth in grace. And that we

may be the less exposed to the sorrows and bereavements of this life, and also the better disposed towards eternity, teach, and by thy grace enable us to wean ourselves from created enjoyments, and to set our hearts upon thee, our imperishable treasure, that changeth not. And seeing that while we are here, in obedience to thy law, we must engage in the avocations of this world, we pray thee to bless our lawful endeavors in our lawful callings, that we may have food and clothing, and that our hearts may bless the Lord. In our respective relations and various walks in life, that we may be enabled to perform our duties to thee, our neighbor, and ourselves; that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with thee, our God, O do thou endow us very richly with the special gifts of thy Spirit. May our sins, which are many, be blotted out, and may the blood of Jesus cleanse us from their stain. United to him by a true and living faith, may we have peace with God, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Renouncing all false confidences, may we place our sole dependence upon his merits and mediation alone. As now we separate for the day, be thou, O our God, never separate from one of us; but be ever at our right hand and at our left, our God, our guide, our stay. Bring us home again in peace in the evening, in thy good pleasure, that as now we implore thy presence and protection, so then we may celebrate thy praise, and, with grateful hearts, return thee due thanksgivings, as even now, also, we do through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—ROMANS XV.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we would this evening bend our knees before thee in token of our humility and desire to ascribe to thee all honor and glory, dominion, power, and praise. We must, indeed, confess, that by nature we are proud and yet fickle, easily elated by prosperity, and as easily depressed by adversity. Our hearts are selfish. We would be everything ourselves, make all others minister to our pleasure and yield to our desires. Too much, we must confess, have we been living to ourselves, indifferent to the condition of our neighbor, careless about his interests, and unconcerned about his destiny. If not in speech, yet have we in actions, each one of us, asked, like the first murderer, Am I my brother's keeper? And by our selfish pursuits and heedless practice, have we cast a stumbling-block before our weaker brethren, the tender lambs of the flock, for whom the great Shepherd has laid down his life. O Lord, forgive us these sins, and give us now of thy grace, that, with the enlarged philanthropy of the gospel, with the benevolence and self-sacrificing brotherly-kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ, we may look every one not at his own interests, but also at those of our brethren in Christ. Do thou, therefore, we beseech of thee, give us grace that we may as we ought, pray for all men, for

those that are in authority over us, for our President, and all judges, rulers, and magistrates. O do thou endow them with the spirit of their station, and the disposition becoming their office, that they may be instrumental in promoting the civil, commercial, and social, but much more the spiritual and ecclesiastical interests of these realms. May pure religion and undefiled flourish everywhere. Give testimony to a preached gospel, as thine own instituted ordinance for the salvation of men. Clothe thy priests with salvation, that thy saints may shout aloud for joy. Bring into the pale of the church of Christ thine ancient people the Jews, and the fulness of the Gentile nations. Destroy the man of sin with the breath of thy nostrils and the brightness of thy coming. Rescue the deluded votaries of idolatry, error, and sin, from the power and slavery of satan, and bring them to the freedom and the truth which is in Christ Jesus. As we have confessed before thee the sins of this day, do thou enable us from the heart to repent of them, and forsake them, and to repair to the blood of Christ, that our sins may thereby be forgiven us. May the blessedness of that man be ours whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. And now, O Lord, what thanks are due unto thee for our preservation during the past day? Thou hast truly been mindful of thine own mercy, and hast caused the outgoing of the evening and the morning to rejoice over us. O may our spared lives be devoted to thy glory. And this night we cast us upon thy care, praying that thou wouldst give unto us the rest of thy beloved ones, and bring us to see the light of a new day (if it be thy pleasure) in some measure of health, and strength, and soundness of mind. May the everlasting arms ever be underneath us, and the banner over us be love. When we pass through the dark valley of the shadow of death, be thou our guide and protector; and at length do thou receive us into glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—JOB XLII.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, thou rulest supreme in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of this earth. None can stay thy hand from working, or say unto thee effectually, What doest thou? Thou art our creator, and preserver, our Lord, and rightful proprietor. In our bodies and in our never-dying spirits we are thine. Our perishable part is fearfully and wonderfully made by thee. There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of thee the Almighty hath given him understanding. Impress this consideration deeply and permanently on our hearts, and may we be brought to exclaim, in a distinct and grateful consciousness of dependence, with thy servant of old, Here I am, let the Lord do with me whatsoever seemeth good in his sight. Thou art, O Lord, possessed of almighty

power, so that thou canst do everything, and the whole universe is thine, so that thou mayest righteously act according to thy sovereign will and pleasure. We are before thee as clay in the hands of the potter. And yet, O searcher of hearts, from whom no thought can be withholden, thou knowest how much dissatisfaction, and ingratitude, and faithlessness, has characterized our past history, and thou hast recorded all the hard thoughts which we have sinfully entertained respecting thy providential dealings towards us. We have been too prone to forget our unworthiness of even the least of all thy mercies, thine unwillingness to afflict or grieve the children of men, and the divine inscrutableness of thy ways; and we have presumed too often to utter things which we understood not, and to pry into the secret things which belong to the Lord alone. But now, we would desire, O merciful God, with repentant and humble hearts, to return unto thee. Beholding ourselves in all the ignorance, and guilt, and depravity which cleave to us by nature; and thee in all the mercy, and light, and purity, and justice of thy glorious character; we would feel constrained to adopt the language of the ancient penitent, I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. Lead us, we beseech thee, to a just and believing view of thyself, and especially may we be enabled to claim thee as our own God in Christ. May we enjoy the blessedness of thy chosen ones, who feel that all things work together for their good, that thou lovest whom thou chastisest, and scourgest every son whom thou receivest. Compassionate the condition of the afflicted. Bless and sanctify all their trials to thy glory and their spiritual good, and produce in them a resigned and confiding temper of mind. May no evil befall us, or any of those who are near and dear to us, this day. Keep us constantly in thy fear and love; and may our death be that of the righteous. Our heart's desire and prayer for all men is that they may be saved. Hasten the coming of Messiah's kingdom; and to thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we will ascribe all praise, dominion, and glory, now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—ROMANS XVI.

O LORD, thou art God, and we will bless thee; thou art our fathers' God, and we will exalt thy name together. Thou art the God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, of those who love and serve thee on the earth, and of all who in heaven are inheriting the promises; but in an especial manner thou art the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We adore and bless thee as the same to-day, yesterday, and forever. Thou hast been the refuge and counsellor of thy people in all past times, and thou art now a present God to those who call upon thee. We rejoice in thy unchangeable mercy. The mountains may depart, and the hills may be removed; but thy loving-kindness shall not depart, nor shall the covenant of

thy peace be removed from those who place their trust in thee. Lead us, we beseech thee, to that fountain which has been opened for sin and for uncleanness to the whole house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and may we be there washed, and justified, and sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. May the Spirit guide us to the rock of ages, under whose grateful shade many a weary traveller has been privileged to rest in safety on his journey through the wilderness which we are now traversing, and by drinking of whose refreshing stream many a drooping spirit has been comforted, and strengthened for pursuing its heavenward course. Create in us clean hearts. Renew right spirits within us. Purify us unto thyself a peculiar people. Prepare us for the fellowship of the godly upon earth, and for holy communion with the blessed above. Seeing that we are encompassed with such a cloud of witnesses as those whose names are already written in the book of life, and casting our eyes upward in humble faith and hope to the blissful countenances of those whose memory is dear to us, who used to share in our earthly griefs and joys, and who now appear, with hearts full of love to Christ, to invite us to the mansions of our heavenly Father's house, may we be all constrained to lay aside every weight, and especially the sins that most easily beset us, and to run with perseverance the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith. Take up thine abode, O gracious God, in the hearts and houses of our friends and relatives this evening. Give thine angels charge over them. May no plague come near our dwelling. May the angel of the covenant encamp about us. May we lie down under a deep sense of our guilt and sinfulness, and with humble confidence in thy pardoning mercy, and sanctifying grace. May we lay our heads upon our pillows, at peace with thee our God, at peace with our own consciences, and breathing peace and good-will to all the human kind. Give us quiet and refreshing slumbers. Raise us up, if it be thy blessed will, in health and strength, prepared for all the duties, events, and trials of another day. Extend the knowledge and the savor of the name of Jesus. For his sake be our God and guide even until death, and in that solemn hour be our strength and joy, and through eternity our portion, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Thirty-Second Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM XCI.

MOST merciful and ever-blessed God, thou art great, and greatly to be feared, and to be had in reverence by all who draw nigh unto thee. The angels, those pure and high intelligences who have kept

their first estate, veil their faces with their wings in the presence of him who inhabiteth eternity and the praises thereof. The redeemed ones in glory, who, having passed through great tribulation, stand before thee in robes which have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, cast their crowns at thy feet, and adore thee as the Father of all their mercies, and the fountain of all their present joys. And, O holy and eternal God, shall not we, sinful dust and ashes, thy dependent creatures, the daily pensioners on thy bounty, and needy suppliants at thy throne, humble ourselves in thy pure and adorable presence, and approach thee clothed with the reverence which becomes us. O pour out upon each of us the spirit of supplication. Impart unto us a deep sense of our own guiltiness and unworthiness, and at the same time an exalted view of our all-sufficient Saviour. May we be enabled in his name to come to thy throne with the unfeigned humility, and the holy boldness of children, that we may find mercy to pardon, and grace to help us. Implant in us the principle of faith which is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen, that our hearts may be weaned from the love and pursuit of earthly and perishable objects, and our affections may be set on those things which are above. Enable us to cast off the worldliness and carnality under which we are weary and heavy-laden. O for the wings of a dove, that we might fly away and be at rest. In the midst of a wicked and ensnaring world, a world that crucified the Lord of glory, and bearing hearts about with us that daily crucify him afresh, may it be ours to dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and to abide under the shadow of the Almighty. We would at all times say of the Lord, He is our refuge and our fortress, our God in whom we would trust. We would confide in thy atonement for the forgiveness of our sins, and we would be regarded as accepted in thy beloved One. We would repair to thy grace for strength wherewith to discharge the duties, and patiently to endure the trials of life. We would implore thy special presence in the hour of death. On that solemn occasion may we feel in our blessed experience, that because thou hast set thy love upon us, thou wilt then be our deliverer. In the name of Jesus Christ our elder brother, we desire to commend to thee all our kindred and friends, and all everywhere who belong to the household of faith. May grace, mercy, and truth, be multiplied unto them. May thy kingdom come throughout the world; may the time be hastened when thy will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS XCII. XCIII.

O LORD our God, thou art worthy of our deepest gratitude, and our loudest praise. We bless thee for our creation, and for the high place which thou hast been pleased to assign to us in the scale of

being. We praise thee for the returning bounties of thy providence, and for the undeserved blessings of thy grace, which from time to time we are permitted to enjoy. Truly it is our bounden duty and our highest privilege to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. During the darkness and silence of repose thy sleepless eye watches over us, and during our waking hours thy power defends us from innumerable dangers which we can neither foresee nor prevent, and thy never-failing goodness supplies our daily wants. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies. O Lord, how great are thy works; how manifold and marvellous is thy goodness; thy thoughts are very deep. In the work of redeeming love, how boundless and unspeakable thy mercy! Eternal praise be ascribed to thy name for the gift of thy Son. May our hearts be melted, by contemplating the cross, into profound abasement and the warmest love; may a look be cast on us from thence, such as that with which Peter was regarded when he went away weeping bitterly for his sins. Withhold not from us, we entreat thee, convincing, converting, and purifying grace. In regard to our three-fold foes, the world, and satan, and the flesh, enable us to say with the psalmist, Mine eye shall see my desire on mine enemies; and fulfil in our experience thy three-fold promise, I will help thee, I will strengthen thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. May we die daily unto sin, and live more and more unto righteousness. May the condition of our souls be described by the flourishing of the palm-tree, and the growth of the cedar in Lebanon. Increase our faith in thy promises, which are exceeding great and precious. Inflame our love to him who loved us even to the death. Deepen our repentance on account of sin; and produce in us a growing desire after spiritual and divine things, a greater hungering and thirsting after the righteousness of faith. Go forth, O blessed Jesus, conquering and to conquer in the hearts and habitations of all the human family. The floods of opposition to Messiah's reign have lifted up their voice; but it is consoling to reflect that the Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters. Thy testimonies, O God, are very sure, and in virtue of thy promise the gospel will have free course, and will be glorified. Arise, shine, O Sun of righteousness. May the arms of thy providence be around all who are bound to us by the ties of nature, of sympathy, or of grace. Never leave nor forsake us in life, and in the deep swellings of the spiritual Jordan, may our souls hear thee saying to us in words of comfort, When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; and after death may we be received into glory. These, our prayers, we present, O Lord our God, in the name and for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, our chosen strength and righteousness. Amen

MONDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS I.

O LORD, help us, we beseech thee, to draw nigh this morning with acceptance to thy footstool. Pour forth thy Holy Spirit upon us, as a Spirit of grace and supplication. Thou knowest that we cannot pray to thee either acceptably or profitably, without his light and guidance. Give us also that lively faith in thy Son, in his mediation and merits, without which it is impossible to please thee, and vain to hope that we shall receive any blessings from thy hands. O our God, we have all sinned grievously against thee, though thou hast made us, soul and body, for thy holy service, and hast laid us under the highest obligations to live entirely devoted to thy glory. We have forsaken thee, the fountain of living waters, and have been hewing out unto ourselves broken and empty cisterns which can hold no water. We have violated every one of thy righteous commandments, both in thought, word, and deed. Truly, we are miserable, and wretched, and poor, and blind, and naked; and we desire, therefore, to be profoundly abased in thy presence, and to cry out with shame, and with contrition of heart, Unclean, unclean; woe is unto us, for we have sinned. But, O Lord, we praise and thank thee, for the precious and abundant intimations thou hast given us of thy pardoning mercy and renewing grace. We bless thee, that there is mercy with our Lord, that he may be feared, and plenteous redemption, that he may be sought after, and confided in, by his sinful creatures; and we especially rejoice to think, that thou art in Christ Jesus reconciling a guilty world to thyself, not imputing to them that truly believe in his blessed name their trespasses. O grant each of us, now before thee, an interest in all the blessings which this divine Redeemer purchased for his people by his atoning sufferings and death. Give us of that wisdom which is treasured up in him for our illumination and guidance. Sprinkle his cleansing blood upon us, that all our iniquities may be blotted out. Vouchsafe to us that Holy Spirit, the treasures of whose influences he holds in his hands, to renew and sanctify, to strengthen and comfort our souls. If thou hast already given us to know him, and to glory in him, as all our salvation, and all our desire, O Lord, we desire to bless thee with all our hearts, for this thy distinguishing grace; and we earnestly pray that thou wouldst carry forward unto perfection, the good work which thou hast commenced, enlightening and purifying, quickening and establishing us more and more. But, O Lord, if we are still without God, without Christ, and without hope in the world, speedily convert us, we entreat thee, from our evil ways. Pluck us as brands from the burning, that we may yet be the monuments of thy redeeming love, and may yet praise thee in the land of the living. Bless and render effectual thy word, and all thy other ordinances, for this end; and O let us never for a moment forget how dreadful will be the eternal portion of all the finally unbelieving, and ungodly. Guide us through all the duties and trials of this new day; keep

us in thy fear all the day long. Keep us near to thyself; and enable us, in everything we plan or attempt, to set thy glory before our eyes, as our chief end, and all the praise shall be thine, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—1 CoR. I.

O LORD, we draw nigh to thee this night in the name of thy beloved Son with whom thou art ever well pleased, and for whose sake thou art well pleased also with all such as rely on his righteousness. We adore thee, as God over all, the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Thou art worthy of all praise, and honor, and glory, for thou hast created, and thou constantly upholdest all things. Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds, thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep; O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore, the children of men may well put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. Many, O Lord, our God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee; if we would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. We praise and thank thee for all the mercies of which we have partaken this day: we trace them all to thee, the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift. But we praise and bless thee, especially for Jesus, thine unspeakable gift, and for the gospel of thy grace, which thou proclaimest to us in thy word. While that gospel is to the Jews a stumbling-block, and to the Greeks foolishness, O let it be to all of us the power of God, and the wisdom of God unto salvation! Open our eyes that we may perceive how admirably suited it is to our case, as a message of mercy; convince us of our guilt and sin, that we may feel our need of the unspeakable blessings which it offers to us; and give us faith cordially to embrace it, and to commit the whole interests of our souls for time and eternity into the hands of that divine Redeemer, whom thou, in thy unfathomable love, hast provided for a fallen world. O Lord, prevent us, we beseech thee, from despising and rejecting him whom thou hast sent, seeing none other can deliver us from the guilt, and dominion, and punishment of sin. May he be made of thee unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; and being effectually taught to believe in his name, and made to experience the quickening power of his Spirit, and the joys and hopes of his great salvation, may we ever be disposed and enabled to give all the glory to thee, by whom thy people are chosen, and called, and justified, and glorified. O make us more like thyself, more like our divine Master, more holy, and humble, and meek, and heavenly-minded. Deliver us from all the remains of sin within

us; perfect thine own work in our souls, and prepare us, by whatever means thou judgest best, for dwelling with thee forever. Take us all, O Lord, under thy fatherly care and protection this night, and fit us for the duties and trials of another day, if thou shalt spare us to see it; and all we ask is for the sake of thy blessed Son. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS II.

O LORD, we come before thee confessing our unworthiness. O Lord, deal not with us, we beseech thee, according to our deservings, but according to thine own boundless mercy in Christ Jesus. Behold, O God, our shield, and look on the face of thine anointed. For his sake receive us graciously, and love us freely. Though our trespasses be more numerous and more aggravated than we can conceive, yet the blood of thy beloved Son, shed on the cross for the remission of sin, can wash them all away; and we flee to that blood; we entreat thee to wash our polluted souls in that precious fountain which thou hast opened for sin and uncleanness. Though we can bring nothing to thee but nakedness and filthy rags, yet the perfect righteousness of Emmanuel can clothe our nakedness, and make us stand accepted before thee; and we desire to take hold of this unspotted robe, that we may be clothed therein. O Lord, do thou clothe us in it; and do thou also renew us in the spirit of our minds, by the sanctifying grace that is in Christ Jesus, that we may be a holy people unto thee the Lord. O give us faith to look to him alone, to receive him in all the fulness of the blessings which thou hast treasured up in him for the supply of thy people's necessities, and to cleave to him through all the remaining days of our life, as the Lord our righteousness, and peace, and strength, and consolation. Thou knowest how blind we are; O send forth thy saving light and truth into our hearts to lead and guide us. O impart to us thy Holy Spirit to open our eyes, that we may behold the wondrous things which are contained in thy law. Let it ever be our chief desire to know thee as thou art in Christ, to know thy beloved Son, as the only Saviour of a perishing world, and to know, and love, and obey all thy revealed will. Let us never be weary of searching thy blessed word; make its inestimable truths plain to us; above all, render them sweet to our taste, even sweeter than honey from the honeycomb, and more precious than thousands of gold and silver. Let them be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path. We look to thee for strength and guidance this day. O Lord, it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps; lead thou us, then, in the way in which we ought to go; keep us from the paths in which destroyers walk; and let all the trials which we have to encounter this day tend, through thy blessing, to prepare us for thy blessed rest above; and all we ask is for the great Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—1 COR. II.

O LORD, we adore and praise thee as the great parent of mercies. We bless thee for life, and health, and every temporal comfort we possess. Above all, we thank thee for the inestimable religious privileges which we enjoy in the happy land wherein we dwell. Thou hast sent the glad tidings of thy great salvation to this land; and many of its inhabitants hast thou drawn to thyself through faith in the blood of thy beloved Son. Thou hast opened wells of salvation in the midst of us, to which thou art daily inviting us to repair, that we may drink, and be refreshed by their healing waters. O Lord, let us not, like too many, despise thy rich mercy. Let us not account thy gracious plan of saving sinners foolishness, because it tends to humble our proud carnal hearts, and requires that we should render to thee all the glory of our salvation. Let us be ever so much abased, but be thou and thy great name exalted. To us belong shame and confusion of face, but to thee be everlasting honor and glory ascribed. O Lord, help us to embrace the Son of thy love, as he is freely offered to us. Make him our prophet, priest, and king. Reveal him to our hearts by thy Holy Spirit, that we may know the things which are freely given us of thee. O Lord, thou hast promised the gift of thy Holy Spirit. O Lord, we now plead thine own promise; deny us not this gift, and that we may be brought into a holy resemblance to him. O Lord, we would be satisfied with nothing short of a full share of all the blessings of the everlasting covenant, and a real union with Christ. Enable us to live by faith upon the Son of God; and growing daily in all holiness, and humility, and meekness, and heavenly-mindedness, to become more and more conformed to his blessed image, and more and more fit for dwelling with him where he is. Deliver us from every remnant of indwelling sin, and fill us with love to that Saviour who loved us and died for us. O Lord, let the savor of his name be diffused abroad through the whole earth. Let his great salvation be speedily proclaimed in every land, that people of every nation, and tongue, and color, may praise thy name. May thy Holy Spirit abundantly bless the means that are now used for evangelizing our benighted and guilty race, and let all men soon be brought to feel his illuminating, and converting, and sanctifying power. O Lord, we desire to thank thee, for all the kindness, and care, and protection which thou hast caused us to experience this day, and we would now commit ourselves to thy fatherly keeping for this night. If it be thy will, let our rest be refreshing, that we may be strengthened for the duties and trials of a new day. Hear us, O Lord, and accept of us, and answer us for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS III.

O LORD, thou art God, and there is none to be compared unto thee—infinite in wisdom, in knowledge, and in truth. Thou art worthy to be praised, and to be had in reverence of all that draw nigh to thee. Wherewithal shall we come before the Lord, and bow ourselves before the most high God? We, who are sinful dust and ashes, are undeserving of the very least of that mercy which we are daily experiencing from thee, our heavenly Father. We have renounced thy parental authority—rejected paternal counsel—forsaken our Father's home—and broken thy holy law,—and by our wilful and unnatural rebellion rendered ourselves obnoxious to thy wrath and curse. Deeming ourselves wiser than thee, we sought our happiness and peace in the ways of sin, and folly, and shame, and are plunged into a state of sin and misery, from which we are both unable and unwilling to deliver ourselves. We have loved idols, and after them would we go. Justly, O Lord, mightest thou have left us to reap the bitter fruits of what we have sowed to ourselves, and said to us in thy hot indignation, He hath loved idols, let him alone. Behold thou art wroth, for we have sinned without cause, and deserve to die without mercy. But thou art God and not man; therefore it is that we are not consumed. Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou the potter. Be not wroth very sore, neither remember iniquity forever. Return, O Lord, deliver our souls, and save us for thy mercies' sake. See God, our shield from merited wrath, look upon us in the face of thine anointed. Let thy mercy and truth in Christ Jesus be engraven on the table of our hearts, and make our souls the faithful depositories of thy holy law. Enable us to renounce ourselves, and to trust in the Lord with our hearts, and not to lean to our own darkened understandings. When we lack wisdom, may we ask it of thee, who teacheth savingly and to profit. When thine arm is uplifted to chasten us with the rod of affliction, may we learn to kiss the rod, and bow in submission to those sovereign appointments, which while they trouble us, and cause us to tremble, yet make our heart soft, and work in us the blessed fruits of righteousness. If thou anointest our head with oil, and causest our cup of blessing to overflow, may our souls overflow with gratitude, and our hearts with love, to thee, the bountiful Giver of all good. As we have freely received, may we freely give. Enable us to devise liberal things, doing good when it is in the power of our hand to do it; honoring the Lord with our substance; and in all things endeavoring to do to others, as we, in like circumstances, would have them do unto us. Dwell, O God, in our hearts, and dwell in our habitation. May our earthly dwelling-place be the habitation of the just, on which thy blessing rests. Then will goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life, and we shall dwell at length in thine house forever. Hear, Lord, our prayers, and grant us an answer of peace for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—1 COR. III.

ALMIGHTY God, before whom angels veil their faces with their wings, and seraphs bend in lowly adoration, bow down thine ear to the thanksgivings and supplications of thy guilty children, who would approach thee through Jesus Christ. Consume us not in the fire of thy holy indignation, but regard us with that favor and love which thou bearest to thine own. We thank thee, that we have an advocate with thee, even Jesus Christ, the righteous one, who has a fellow-feeling with all our infirmities, who knows the frailties of our frame, who sympathizes in all our afflictions, whose plea is all-powerful, and whose advocacy is all-prevalent. Through him we approach with boldness to thy throne of grace to seek and obtain mercy; and to find grace to help us in our time of need. We would desire to place all our dependence, and build all our hope of salvation on the stone, the tried stone, the precious corner-stone, the sure foundation, which, in mercy and love, thou hast laid in Zion for thy believing people; for other foundation can no man lay, but that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. To whom thou, O God, hast entrusted the mighty work of our salvation, may we by faith intrust with the keeping of our souls. On whom thou hast laid the iniquities of us all, may we lay the burden of our sins, and our sorrows, and take his yoke which is easy, and his burden which is light. Through him may we find access by the Spirit unto thee, the Father, bound to thee, and to our Christian brethren, by him who is the corner-stone of the church of God; and on this pearl of great price, may we be enabled to rear an edifice adorned by the fruits of the Spirit, and reflecting the beauties of holiness. Permit us not to fall into the soul-ruinous sin of deceiving ourselves with a mere name to live, while we are in reality spiritually dead. Let us not make a Saviour of mere instruments and outward ordinances; but looking by faith, through the means of the God of all grace, may we value the earthen vessels as the blessed channels of communicating to our souls the pure waters of life which flow from the throne of God. May we obey them that are our spiritual overseers, and submit ourselves; for they watch for our souls, as they that must give account. Make our hearts, O God, the honored temples of the Holy Ghost, that, by his indwelling and sanctifying power, we may become more and more qualified for dwelling forever with the Lord, in the glorified and heavenly temple of the Zion above. Enrich our souls with the treasures of grace; give us to be spiritually-minded, which is life and peace. Make us heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ Jesus; this is all our salvation, and all our desire. And to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be ascribed all glory and praise, now, and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS IV.

FATHER of mercies and God of all grace, we would desire to kneel before thee, our Maker, and to offer thee up our humble tribute of gratitude and praise. Thou hast guarded us from all outward evil, watched over us with parental tenderness during the obscurity of night, and brought us in safety to the blessings of another day. We have laid us down and slept, for thou, Lord, hast caused us to dwell in safety. To thee we are indebted for all the temporal and spiritual blessings we enjoy. It is of thine infinite goodness that we have been born in a land where the sound of the gospel may be heard, and its privileges freely enjoyed. It is to thee we owe the advantages of a scriptural and godly education, whereby we have been taught to know our Creator in the days of our youth, and instructed in the way of everlasting life. Thou hast given us line upon line, and precept upon precept; and in the enjoyment of Sabbath blessings and gospel ordinances, thou hast hedged in our path, so that we should not err from thy ways. Thou hast led us about, and instructed us, and kept us as the apple of thine eye. Well mightest thou say regarding us, What could have been done more to my vineyard that I have not done to it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes. Notwithstanding all thy tender solicitude and long-suffering forbearance, how unfruitful have we proved ourselves to be! Have we not refused to listen to the voice of heavenly wisdom? How have we hated instruction, and despised reproof, and disobeyed the voice of our teachers! How have we gone in the path of the wicked, and followed the multitude to do evil! and breaking through all thy hedges, and bursting all the barriers of conscience, and scripture, and godly friends, and providential warnings, that opposed us in the indulgence of our ungodly inclinations, have we not drunk in iniquity as the ox drinketh up water! Our sins are highly aggravated, in that they have been committed against knowledge, light, truth, warnings, and all the means of grace, leaving us, O God, without an excuse to plead for our multiplied transgressions. Against thee, thee only have we sinned; for we acknowledge our transgressions; our sins are ever before us. We loathe ourselves in our own sight for our iniquities and abominations. Wash, then, us thoroughly from all our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin; for though they be as scarlet, thou canst make them whiter than the snow; though they be red like crimson, thou canst make them pure as wool. Create within us clean hearts; renew a right spirit within us. O that the blood of Christ might be savingly applied by the Spirit to purify the bitter fountain of the heart, to purge our consciences, renew our wills, and sanctify our natures, that their issues might be life forever. Give us grace to exercise a godly jealousy over our thoughts, feelings, and words, that we may cease to do evil and learn to do well. Establish all our goings in the ways of holiness and eterna. life, that

we may be seduced by no temptations to turn aside either to the right hand or to the left. And may our path be yet that of the just, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. All our supplications we present in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS IV.

O LORD, who is a God like unto thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? We would give thanks at the remembrance of thy holiness and justice, thy mercy and grace, as unfolded in the work of our redemption. In thy cross, O blessed Jesus, we see mercy and truth meeting together, righteousness and peace embracing each other, the glory of God exalted, and the rebellious sinner saved. Our souls, O Lord, would bless thee, and all that is within us would be stirred up to bless and magnify thy holy name, for thou forgivest all our iniquities; thou healest all our diseases; thou redeemest our lives from destruction; thou crownest us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. We have nothing that is good but what we have received from thy gracious hand; yet with thine own would we serve and glorify thee. We would not regard ourselves as our own property; we are thine, thou hast bought us with an infinite price, and we would desire to manifest our love to thee by glorifying thee in our bodies and spirits which are thine. Assist us, O Lord, in rendering to thee the true service of an undivided heart, for with such sacrifice thou art well pleased. Yet, alas! our consciences testify against us, that, during the past day, thy glory has not been our single or chief aim in all we have done. We have been endeavoring to serve God and mammon; or, alas! serving the world and ourselves to the utter exclusion of God from all our thoughts. And if our hearts condemn us, thou, who art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things, must condemn us also. We humbly confess, and with sorrow lament, how much we are influenced by the fear of the world's censure, or the love of the world's praise, by selfishness, and the love of carnal ease and security, and are thereby deterred from making any sacrifices of personal feeling or comfort for thy cause and glory. Pardon, O gracious God, our ingratitude, unbelief, and coldness of heart. Strengthen our faith, and augment our love to him who loved us, and gave himself a sacrifice for our sins, that we may be constrained to live no longer to ourselves, but to him who died for us and rose again. Grant us holy boldness and confidence through the faith of Jesus, that we may count it all joy to bear our Lord's reproach, and rejoice if we are counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. We would desire to glory in nothing but in the cross of Christ, whereby the world is crucified unto us, and we unto the world. Forgive us all our sins, and hear, answer, and accept of our prayers and praises, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS VIII.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, we desire this morning to bow ourselves down in humble reverence at the footstool of thy throne. We would remember that thou art in heaven, and we upon the earth; that thou art our Creator, and we the work of thy hands; that thou art from everlasting to everlasting, the same yesterday, to-day, and forever, and that we are of yesterday and know nothing. O Lord, make us duly sensible of our ignorance and foolishness. Make us to see how far we have gone astray from the paths of true wisdom in forsaking God, the only permanent and satisfying portion of an immortal soul, and seeking for happiness in the empty and perishing joys of a vain world. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but we have neither known nor considered the hand that feeds us, and that is daily loading us with benefits. We acknowledge, O God, the guilt, as well as the foolishness, of our ways. With shame and confusion of face would we confess the sins with which we have been chargeable, in preferring the creature to the Creator, and postponing the claims of God to the calls of our own wicked and corrupt inclinations. O Lord, pardon our iniquity, for it is very great. Deal with us not in thy wrath; vex us not in thy hot displeasure. Leave us not to reap the consequence of our own pursuits, or to be filled with the fruits of our own devices; but save us with an everlasting salvation, and magnify thy power and grace in the midst of our abounding iniquity. O make us all monuments of thy redeeming mercy, and glorify thy great name in rescuing us from the bondage of corruption, and bringing us into the glorious liberty of thy children. We thank thee for the promise of the Holy Spirit. O may his influences be richly shed abroad in our hearts, purifying our affections, renewing our wills, and transforming us wholly into the divine image. May he implant and cherish within us every holy disposition, confirm every right resolution, and strengthen us for the discharge of every duty. We desire to feel more and more our absolute dependence on thy promised grace. Lord, we are weak and insufficient; we have no strength in ourselves. We are ever ready to be drawn away into the communion of sin by the snares and temptations of a world that lieth in wickedness; and if left to ourselves, we must infallibly make shipwreck of our faith, and come short of eternal life. But our dependence is on thee; our hope is in thy word. Leave us not, O Lord, nor forsake us. Make thy grace sufficient for us, and perfect thy strength in our weakness. We thank thee that we have been preserved throughout the past night, and brought to see the light of another day. Keep us throughout this day from evil. Defend us from every accident and danger. Preserve us especially from sin. In all our intercourse with our fellow-men, may we be enabled to conduct ourselves as the followers of the Lord Jesus. May we set a watch upon our lips, that we offend not with our tongue. May we be enabled to keep our

heart with all diligence from the intrusion of every sinful thought. And in the midst of the business and the various pursuits of time, may we be enabled ever to bear upon our minds the grand realities of eternity. Hear us, O Lord, in these our supplications, and graciously accept of us and of our services, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS V.

O LORD, to whom can we go but unto thee? thou hast the words of eternal life. Thou only canst pardon our sins and sanctify our natures; canst heal our backslidings, and give grace to help us in every time of need. We would approach thee this evening under a deep sense of our guilt and unworthiness. It is of thy great mercy that we have not, long ere this time, been cut down as cumberers of the ground, and had our portion assigned us with the workers of iniquity, in that place where thou hast forgotten to be gracious. But in the exercise of thy wondrous forbearance and long-suffering, we are still spared in the land of the living, and in the place of hope. O may it not be to add iniquity unto iniquity, and to multiply provocation against thee, until thy long-suffering be exhausted, and thy Spirit cease to strive with us. May we esteem the time past of our lives more than sufficient to have wrought the will of the flesh, and resolve henceforth to live no longer the rest of our time in the flesh, to the lusts of man, but to the will of God. With deep humility and reverence would we acknowledge the sovereignty of thy grace in all thy dealings with the children of men. We feel that it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy. And if we have been saved from falling into those gross transgressions of which others of our fellow-creatures have been guilty, it is not because we are by nature better than they, or because we have done anything to deserve thy grace, but only through the free and sovereign mercy of God, who alone maketh us to differ. O may we never lose the impression, that our hearts are by nature deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. And may we learn every day to lean less and less on the strength of our own resolutions, and more and more on the strength of promised grace. Grant, O heavenly Father, that we may not only have deeper convictions of the evil of sin, but livelier views of the power, and grace, and sufficiency of the Saviour. May Christ be every day more precious to us; and whilst we rest upon him all our hopes of pardon and acceptance, may our affections flow out towards him in lively gratitude for the great love wherewith he has loved us. O that his name and praise were universally known and proclaimed! Lord, let the time soon come when his kingdom shall extend from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. Stir up in the hearts of all thy people a more ardent zeal for the glory of Christ,

and the extension of his kingdom throughout the world. Bless all ministers and pastors in thy church ; may they be wise to win souls unto Christ. And may a special blessing accompany the ministry of the word in our native land. Let thy Spirit descend like rain upon the mown grass, and as showers that water the earth. O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of us, and grant us times of refreshing from thy presence. Bless, we beseech thee, all with whom we are connected, by whatever tie. Enrich their souls with the communications of thy grace, and make all things to work together for their good. Be merciful to the poor, the sick, the afflicted, and the dying. Sanctify family affliction to all who are visited with it ; and prepare us for every dispensation of thy providence that awaits us in life. Prepare us for living or for dying. Teach us to submit with implicit acquiescence in every arrangement of thy holy will concerning us. And may we feel, that to us to live is Christ, and to die, unspeakable gain. We desire to commit ourselves to thy care and keeping this night. Forgive all the sins of the past day. Give us refreshing rest, and bring us to see the light of another morning in health and strength, to fit us for all our duties. And to thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, be glory, and dominion, and praise, world without end. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XI.

O LORD, we bless thee that what holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, has been by them committed to writing, and handed down for our edification and instruction, upon whom the ends of the world have come. Make us thankful for the holy scriptures, and teach us to draw from every part of them that instruction which they are designed and fitted to afford. And whilst we search them diligently, in order that we may know the things that are freely given us of God, even the things that belong to our everlasting peace, may we strive also to imbibe those maxims of practical wisdom with which they furnish us for directing our footsteps amid all the duties, and difficulties, and perplexities of life. In every part of our conduct may we be regulated by that wisdom which cometh from above. As the disciples of the Lord Jesus, may we strive to adorn his doctrine in all things ; and by the uprightness, and consistency, and circumspection of our lives, endeavor to convince the world around us, that it is a doctrine according to godliness. Enable us to exemplify, in all our dealings, that honesty and integrity of conduct, which would rather suffer injury than inflict it ; that charity which thinketh no evil, and taketh not up an ill report against its neighbor ; that Christian prudence, which guides its affairs with discretion, so as to be able to distribute, with liberality, to the necessities of the poor and destitute. May we ever bear in mind, that we have nothing in this world which we can call our own ; that

all that we have is thine, and to be employed only in the way which will most promote thy glory. May we esteem it, therefore, our privilege, as well as our duty, to honor the Lord with our substance, and prize the bounties of thy providence only as affording us more extended means of advancing thy kingdom and cause in the world. O Lord, we would humble ourselves before thee on account of all our past shortcomings in these respects, and on account of all our other aggravated and multiplied sins. Lord, be merciful unto us, and deal with us not as we have deserved. Wash away all our guilt in the blood of the Lamb. We cast ourselves on thy sovereign and unmerited grace, beseeching thee to justify us freely, and to sanctify us wholly. And may we be enabled henceforth to love thee more sincerely, to serve thee more faithfully, and to render a more suitable return for all the goodness which we have experienced at thy hands. Our heart's desire and prayer for all our brethren of mankind is, that they may be saved, and brought to the knowledge of the truth. Let thy way be known upon the earth, and thy saving health among all nations. Bless especially our native land, and prosper a preached gospel in the midst of us. Pour out abundantly thy Spirit upon all thy servants in the ministry; and be pleased to add daily to thy church of such as shall be saved. Lord, take us into thy keeping this day; fit us for every duty and for every trial which may be awaiting us; and bring us at last into thy heavenly kingdom, where there is fulness of joy, and pleasures for evermore. And all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS VI.

O THOU that dwellest in the heavens, whose name is Holy, and who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, how shall we, thy guilty and polluted creatures, venture to approach thy footstool, or to lift up our eyes to the place where thine honor dwelleth! O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee; but unto us, shame and confusion of face, because we have rebelled against thee. We have reason to be deeply abased when we come into thy presence, and think of all our past ingratitude, and unbelief, and disobedience. We have forfeited all claim to thy favor, and have no reason whatever to show why sentence against our evil works should not be executed speedily. God be merciful to us sinners. For the sake of thine own dear Son, look upon us in mercy, and not in wrath. Behold, O God, our shield, look upon the face of thine Anointed, and for the sake of him who died, the just for the unjust, who bore our sins, in his own body, on the tree, and who has fully satisfied all the claims of a broken law in our room and stead, pardon all our iniquity, justify us freely, and receive us into the number of thy children. O teach us to hate sin with a perfect hatred. May the contemplation of all that the Sa-

viour endured on account of it impress us with such a sense of its enormity, that we may henceforth stand in awe and sin not. May the love of Christ constrain us to shun resolutely that evil and abominable thing which he hates; and may it be our constant aim to mortify every unholy desire, and every inordinate affection, and purify ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and of the Spirit. Remembering that we are bought with a price, may it be our ambition to glorify God in our bodies and our spirits, which are his; and, as the living temples of the Spirit, may we seek to be so adorned with all the graces of personal holiness, as that we may be instrumental in showing forth the praises of him who loved us, and gave himself for us. With ourselves, we would beseech thee to be gracious to all our brethren of mankind, and especially to such as are of the household of faith. Lord, bless thy church; save thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up forever. May a spirit of brotherly love be more and more manifested among all the followers of the Lamb; and may the time speedily come, when the disciples of a common Lord shall see eye to eye, when all offence shall be removed, and when there shall be nothing to hurt or to destroy in all God's holy mountain. We desire this evening to lay ourselves down to rest, full of thankfulness to thee for all the goodness which thou hast made to pass before us throughout the past week. O thou who never slumberest nor sleepest, watch over us during the silent watches of the night; and if thou art pleased to bring us to see the light of another day—another day of the Son of man—fit us, we beseech thee, for all the duties of thy holy sabbath. May our hearts be prepared for thy worship; and whether engaged in thy service in public or in private, may we find it to be a good thing for us to draw near unto God, and to wait upon him in the ordinances of his appointment. O thou hearer of prayer, hear our evening supplication, blot out all our sins, and answer us graciously, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.



Thirtieth-Third Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM XCIV.

O LORD, the great King, the all-knowing Judge of the world, we stand in awe of thy righteousness; with lowly hearts, in the name of Christ, we do homage before thee. Blessed be thy name that thou hast made him, even thy beloved Son, and the Son of man, Head over all things, in all ages, for thy church. Increase our faith in him, and accept of us, the unworthy, for his sake. How many and

grievous are our sins! How ungodly our hearts! Surely if thy free mercies prevent not, they will number us with thy foes on the great day of retribution. O pardon us freely through him who bore our sins in his own body on the tree: and shed thy love abroad in our whole heart by the Holy Ghost given to us. How long, O Lord, shall the throne of iniquity within us, have fellowship with thee? Shall the law of sin in our members, be ever prevailing against the law of our mind engraven by thy Spirit? O make thy grace triumphant that we may praise thee. Within and without, thy aids are alike needful to us: along with our infirmity, behold our temptations. Innumerable evils compass us about, make thou a way of escape. Compassionate, O Lord, the cares, perplexities, and sorrows of our lot; when our foot slippeth, let thy mercy uphold us. Known it is to thee, if we suffer wrong at the hands of man. Raise up for us such earthly friends as thou seest meet; but be thyself, Lord, our sure defence; our God, be thou the rock of our refuge. If we have adversaries, and thou reprove them, yet let it be in mercy; forgive, and sanctify, and comfort them too: and whether it be they or we, let the man be blessed whom thou chastenest. So teach us out of thy law, that our hearts may rest inwardly from the days of our adversity, even while they continue, and may wait with quiet hope, where thy providence permits, to see the goodness of the Lord anew in the land of the living. How many of thy benefits, O Lord, do we daily enjoy! Thy grace enables us to use as not abusing them: and as we have here no continuing city, the Lord lead us into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. These blessings at large do thou bestow on all those whom we love and should pray for. So visit thy whole church and people, so restore this guilty, this calamitous world. Everywhere let the wicked be reprov'd and converted, while thy afflicted servants are delivered and comforted. Everywhere let every power be abolished that would frame mischief by a law; and in the coming of thy kingdom, let judgment return unto righteousness, that all the upright in heart may sing for joy. Hear, Lord, our prayers, with those of all who love thy name; and to thee, in Christ, be glory, now and ever. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS xcvi. xcvi.

O LORD! we lift up our souls to thee, the one living and true God, of whom, and through whom, and to whom are all things. Thou rulest among the hosts of heaven; thou bindest in chains the armies of darkness. The earth is thine, and all that dwell therein. Thou art in Christ reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto them their trespasses. O pour down thy Spirit like refreshing rain upon thy churches, that thy saints may praise thee with their whole heart, and may publish the glad tidings of great joy among all nations. Quicken us also by his loving presence in our souls, that we may

now make joyful mention of thy greatness and glory, of thy wisdom, might and goodness incomprehensible. O Lord! thou art holy, who would not fear thee? As sinners we abase ourselves in the dust at thy feet. But thou takest no pleasure in the death of such; long-suffering art thou, and slow to anger, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. O pardon our trespasses. In Christ Jesus accept of us, and bless us in Christ Jesus. Our trust towards thee is alone in the merits of his obedience unto death, and in the power of his living sovereignty. To the guidance of his truth we surrender our souls: we devote our whole being to the obedience of his most righteous law: we make over the care of all our interests, our earthly life, our eternal welfare, to the wisdom, faithfulness, and mercy of his all-disposing Providence. O preserve us steadfast in our allegiance to him by the grace of thy good Spirit. Let his wonderful works, the evidences of his saving might, and of his love that passeth knowledge, be continually before us, lest setting our thoughts on vanity, satan prevail, to blind, pervert, and harden, and destroy us. O Lord, how solemn is our state, as placed by thee upon the trial of our faith and patience; while thou sittest over us as a refiner of silver, waiting to collect the treasure, and to put the dross away! Have mercy upon us, O God. Thyself undertake for us. Strengthen us with all might, by thine own Spirit, in the inner man. Daily give us to watch and pray, even as we are daily tempted. Train us daily to sober self-restraint, and to cheerful service; and when the hidden hour of thy decision comes, whether it find us alone, or associated with many, whatever be the nature or duration of our conflict; uphold us then, we pray, with the right hand of thy righteousness; then make us more than conquerors through him that loved us. Thine oath against Israel, They shall not enter into my rest, be then far from our souls; and near be thine oath to Abraham, By myself have I sworn, that in blessing I will bless thee! Living, may it be our constant privilege and our delight to praise thee; and dying, may our portion be with such as die in the Lord, who rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. Hear us, O Lord, for ourselves, and for kindred friends and neighbors; and thus accept and bless us all, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XV.

O LORD God, all-wise and almighty, who art ever present throughout thy creation, upholding, ordaining all things, and working all things according to the pleasure of thy will; thou art righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. A God of truth, and without iniquity, just and right art thou. O how shall we, the children of folly and of sin, already under just condemnation, present ourselves before thy searching eyes? From ourselves there is no hope—no hope from any creature. Thy mercy, O Lord, through Christ

Jesus, is our only refuge. Our errors, our trespasses, our stains, our deserved miseries, are past reckoning. Now would we be low in thy presence, judging, dooming our own selves; and encouraged alone by thy gracious call to the chief of sinners, and by the warrant of thy express command to all the sons of Adam, we would now place all our trust in him who is freely made unto us of God, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Blessed be thy name, that in him we see God manifest in the flesh! O strengthen us by thine almighty Spirit, to put off ourselves, and to put on Christ Jesus, that so thy favor, and not thy frown, may be our portion. Delivered from our perversity of mind, and heart, and life, no more, O God! let us be the occasions of distress or of sin to those whom we ought to love; but actuated by the wisdom which cometh from above, which is first pure, and then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy, let the fruit of righteousness be sown by us in peace, while we make peace. Bestow what is good of this world's prosperity on us and ours, but above all things, let our souls live before thee, and our inheritance be made sure in thy glorious kingdom. O shed down, on thy church, the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, the Spirit of power, of love, and of a sound mind; and increase the numbers, unite the counsels, and bless the labors of those who publish salvation, until thou make this land a well-watered garden, thy wasted heritage again a fruitful field, and the heathen wilderness a vineyard of the Lord. Hear us, O Lord, hear us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS VII.

THY law, O Lord! is perfect, converting the soul; thy testimony, O Lord, is sure, making wise the simple, the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. Blessed be thy name, O God, who condescendest thus to inform the unworthy. What privilege is equal to ours, who receive not only the revelation of thy saving mercy in Christ, and of thy holy, just, and good commandments, but also the counsels and admonitions of thy fatherly love, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth! O may that gracious instructor unite all thy sayings deeply in our hearts. May he enable us to observe thy law with reverence and godly fear, and apply thy precepts with understanding and prudence to the government of our lives. O Lord, sanctify us in all our relations one to another. Forgive our past wanderings and sins. Remove every obstruction to our spiritual improvement, in the time to come. Have compassion on such as are walking in the way of their own hearts, and

make a mock of thy sacred word. Bring near its truths to them in power, rebuking their lusts, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. O let the love of him reign paramount over all our affections. Let the hope of glory, and not of this world's good, be the guiding-star of our conduct through life. Our days are as an hand-breadth; impress us with the solemnity of our coming change; and strengthen us, far more mightily than ever, to redeem the time. May we do and suffer all thy holy pleasure with confidence and joy, knowing, that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. What are we, O Lord, that thou shouldst hear us? Pardon the iniquity of our prayers, and answer them according to the riches of thy heavenly compassion and kindness, for the sake of Christ Jesus, thy Son, our Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XVI.

KNOWING, O Lord, how often and grievously we have offended and provoked thee to anger by our sins and shortcomings, how multiplied and highly aggravated are our transgressions, and how completely the spirit that is in us lusteth to envy, we would humble ourselves in the dust before thee, and beseech thee not to visit us according to our sins, but, in the midst of merited wrath, to remember us in mercy. O we would adore the riches of that mercy which is over all thy works, and which has been most conspicuously displayed in the redemption of a lost world. We thank thee that thou hast brought us within the pale of the visible church, and that we have been trained up from our tenderest years in a knowledge of the great salvation. O that this knowledge may be blest to each of us. Quicken our dead natures, influence our cold hearts, subdue our stubborn wills, and enable us daily to make progress in the divine life, and in that heavenly wisdom so often commended in the scriptures. May we be growing in knowledge, in the knowledge of thy glorious character and perfections; of our guilty and fallen condition; of our infirmities and weaknesses; and of the grace and mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and of all the precepts and requirements of thy holy word. And may this knowledge have a sanctifying influence upon our hearts and lives, leading us no longer to live unto ourselves, but unto him that died for us and rose again. And may we be enabled to persevere in the good course on which we have entered unto the end of life, so that we may finish our course with joy, and may be admitted at last into the mansions of bliss. We pray for all our brethren of mankind that they may be saved, and that they may be enabled suitably to adorn those stations of life in which they have been placed. Bless our President and all in

authority. May they rule in thy fear, and may the nation be established by righteousness; and may those who are subject, be subject not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake. And now that we are about again to enter upon the labors and duties of another day, we would implore thy protection and blessing. May we be preserved from danger; may we be kept from temptation and sin, and be enabled vigorously and efficiently to perform our several duties. While diligent in business, may we be fervent in spirit serving the Lord. And may the love of God the Father, and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS VIII.

O LORD, who is a God like unto thee, who art glorious in thy holiness, fearful in thy praises, ever doing wonders? All the gods whom the nations worship are but dumb idols, stocks and stones, graven by art and man's device; but thou art the living and true God, the eternal Jehovah, the Creator and Governor of the universe. All thy works proclaim thine existence and perfections. But we bless thee that thou hast not sent us to the volume of nature to learn thy character and perfections, what thou art, and what thou wouldst have us to be; that thou hast given to us a surer word of prophecy, to which we do well to take heed, as unto a light shining in a dark place. We would desire ever to receive with humility and lively faith all the discoveries of thy word, whether these respect thy nature and government, our original and fallen condition, the way of recovery through Jesus Christ, or that eternal life which thou hast provided for thy people in heaven for evermore. We worship thee as the three-one God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three distinct, co-equal and co-eternal persons in one undivided Godhead. We would not presume to explore the mysteries of thy Being. We receive with humility the declarations of thine own word; we believe and adore. We believe, also, that thou hast made man upright; but that he hath sought out inventions; that he hath fallen, through wilful disobedience, from his original purity, and that he is now a child of wrath and an heir of hell; that the whole human family have transgressed, and that there is none righteous, not even one. We would desire especially to confess and bewail our own sins and imperfections, our multiplied transgressions, our vain imaginations, our cold hearts, our stubborn wills. We acknowledge that we have justly merited thy highest displeasure, and that thou mightest glorify thy justice in our destruction. But we cry unto thee for mercy; we take hold on thy covenant. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, saying, with the disciples, Lord, increase our faith. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. See, then, O God, our shield; look on the face of thine Anointed. Blot out our sins as a cloud, and our trans-

gressions as a thick cloud. Write our names in the book of life, and give us a right and a title to all the privileges of thine adopted children. Help us to walk worthy of our Christian profession, to live soberly, and righteously, and godly, in the world. May we love all men with a love of benevolence, and our fellow-Christians as brethren. May we avoid everything that might become an occasion of offence, sacrificing our own feelings and inclinations in smaller matters, rather than offend one of the least of Christ's little ones. We would pray for the greater unity of the visible church; that thou wouldst heal the divisions of Zion; that Judah may no longer vex Ephraim, nor Ephraim Judah; but that all true Christians may be one in sentiment and affection, even as thou, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, art one. We thank thee for the mercies of this day, for all our family and individual blessings. Truly the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and ours is a goodly heritage. Be the friend of our friends; reward our benefactors, forgive our enemies. Be very gracious to all the sons and daughters of affliction. Grant us thy protection during the night. May we enjoy refreshing sleep, and enter again, if it be thy holy will, with renewed vigor, on the duties and occupations of a new day. Guide and protect us by thy counsel and grace while we are in the body, and receive us all at last into thy kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XVIII.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God and Father, we would desire again, on this the morning of a new day, to encompass our domestic altar, and to offer thereon the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving. Great art thou, O Lord, and greatly to be feared; thou art good, also, and much to be praised; thy goodness and greatness are unsearchable. We especially adore thee that thou hast delivered our souls from spiritual and eternal death. Ever praised be redeeming love, that mercy has been proclaimed from heaven to guilty man, and that a way has been provided for dispensing this mercy in accordance with the perfections of thy nature, with the demands of justice, and with the interests of thy moral administration; and that when neither man nor angel could redeem his brother from destruction, nor offer unto God a ransom for his soul, thou thyself hast provided a ransom; hast laid help upon one mighty and able to save; hast spared not thine own Son, but delivered him up a propitiation and atonement for the sins of mankind. And our souls would bless thee for the gracious assurance that there is now no longer any condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; and that whosoever believeth in him is justified from all things, from which he could not be justified in any other manner. O most merciful God and Father, we beseech thee to have compassion on us, miserable sinners, and to suffer

us not to perish utterly, seeing thou hast provided for us redemption in Christ Jesus. O send forth thy Holy Spirit into our hearts to convince us of sin; to quicken our dead natures; to bestow upon us spiritual life; to strengthen our faith; to fill us with patience and love; and to produce and perfect within us every Christian grace. Fill us, above all, with that heavenly wisdom so often commended in thy holy word, and of which we have this day again been hearing. May we be daily searching the scriptures, and acquiring an increasing acquaintance with thy revealed will; and while we thus look into the glass of the law, may we be changed into the image of our Master, and become the living epistles of Christ, read and seen of all men. Help us to adorn our profession of the Christian faith by devoted attachment to Jesus, and by a life of holy obedience. Enable us to bridle the tongue, never to murmur against any of the allotments of thy providence, however adverse and afflictive, and never to calumniate or reproach any of our fellow-men, however unworthy may have been their conduct, or however injurious to us. May we speak the truth every man to his neighbor, and endeavor always to edify one another, having our conversation with grace, seasoned with salt. And may we, in all our intercourse with our brethren, be actuated by a love of integrity and justice, and abhor whatever is fraudulent and base. May we provide things honest in the sight of all men; and make our light so to shine around us, that others, seeing our good works, may be led to glorify our Father which is in heaven. And while we set not our hearts on the world, nor trust in uncertain riches, and are willing, without a murmur, to part with our goods at thy bidding, may we be enabled to manifest a commendable diligence and prudence in the management of our affairs and in our callings, that we may have enough to supply our own wants, and also to give to him that needeth. Fit us especially for the duties of this day. Wherever we go, may we enjoy thy protection; and whatever we do, may we do it to thy glory. And may these our humble prayers be heard and answered, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS IX.

MOST gracious God, we would again approach thee at the close of this day, confessing our guilt, and imploring thy forgiveness. We pray that, for Christ's sake, our sins may be forgiven; that our natures may be sanctified; that our persons and services may be accepted; and that grace and strength may be imparted to us to know and obey thy will in all things. O Lord our God, how manifold is thy goodness to us, thine unworthy creatures, in conferring on us our being, in preserving our lives, and in showering down upon us daily unnumbered mercies! We thank thee for the protection which thou hast afforded us during this day; for our bodily health; for our

mental vigor; for our worldly substance; for our social comforts; for our family blessings. May we not be resting in these creature comforts, but look beyond them unto thyself, our only true and satisfying portion. While they are continued with us, may our hearts be truly grateful unto thee, the bestower of them. And shouldst thou see meet, for the trial of our faith and the chastisement of our spirits, to remove any of them from us, enable us to submit to the bereavement without a murmur, and suitably to improve the visitation. But most of all would we thank thee for thy marvellous love to our precious and never-dying souls. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend; but herein hath God commanded his love toward us, in that, while we were yet enemies, Christ died for us. For God hath so loved the world, as to give for our redemption his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Thanks, then, eternal thanks, be unto God for his unspeakable gift. Blessed be he that came in the name of the Lord to save us. Hosannah to the Son of David, hosannah in the highest! For he that is mighty hath done great things for us; holy and reverend is his name. O grant that we all may be partakers of this great salvation; and that as we have outwardly assumed the Christian name, we may be Christians in deed and in truth. Begin and carry on the work of grace in each of our souls. May we be born again, created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works. May we be daily putting off the old man, with his corrupt deeds, and clothing ourselves with the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. And O may we be enabled in all things to walk worthy of our religious profession. And should we be reproached for the sake of Jesus, or even reviled and persecuted by an ungodly world, may we take it patiently like our great Master, and like the apostles of our Lord. Enable us at all times to honor thee with our substance, and to give liberally for the maintenance of the gospel of Christ at home, and for its diffusion in heathen lands. And may we be animated to run with ardor our Christian race, and to persevere in every good work, by a constant regard to the great reward that awaits us when we shall have finished our labors, and entered into our rest. O Lord, we beseech thee dispose and enable us so to run that we may obtain. Bless the whole family of man. Have mercy on perishing sinners, and save them; and enable all who name the name of Jesus to depart from all iniquity. Be with us this night; spread thy banner over us, and may it be a banner of protection and love. And unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we would ascribe praise, and blessing, and honor, and glory, now and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XX.

O LORD, thou art a being of spotless purity, and all who shall dwell with thee forever in heaven must imbibe a resemblance to thy

character here. Help us to cultivate that purity, which will form a resplendent proof that we are pilgrims travelling to the better Canaan. Keep us from the fleshly lusts which war against the soul, and would enslave us to the dominion of satan. May we not be drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit, striving daily to mortify our members which are upon the earth, and to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Fill us with a spirit of forbearance towards others. Though injured, may we never breathe any thought of revenge. May we be tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us. As the Saviour bore with uncomplaining meekness the indignities he endured from his enemies, and was, when most contumeliously reviled, as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, may we patiently endure wrongs, knowing that our Father in heaven will in due time deliver us from all afflictions. Preserve us from all those injurious actions towards our neighbors which the native selfishness of our nature would prompt; and give us that self sacrificing affection towards them which would make us surrender any object, however dear, by which their well-being may be promoted. May we yearn over them with all the tenderness of him who wept over impenitent Jerusalem, and who, amidst the agonies of the cross, said, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. May the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus, who, though he reposed in the bosom of the Father from all eternity, yet made himself of no reputation, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. When we survey his generous condescension and unparalleled humiliation, may we be willing to stoop to any office, however mean, by which others may be benefited, and, if necessary, even to lay down our lives for them. May we be enabled so to glorify God, that others, seeing our good works, may be led to devote themselves to the service of our Father in heaven. Accept of us through Jesus Christ, whom thou hearest always. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS X.

O LORD, help us to profit by all the diversified experience of thine ancient people Israel. Thou didst guide them by a luminous cloud in all their wanderings, and didst irradiate their camp by night with a pillar of fire. But thou hast made a more glorious light to beam upon our nation, in setting before us Christ Jesus as evidently crucified. Thou didst vouchsafe them for many years an unbroken supply of water from the rock of Horeb; but thou art offering us that water of which, if a man drink, he will never thirst. Heavenly manna is lying in profusion around us, and we have only to stoop down and gather it up. But we have abused our mercies, and made the very goodness which should incite us to repentance an encouragement to sin. Thou hast borne us, and carried us, and in every

stage of our journey astonished us with tokens of forgiving love, when we have expected nothing but vengeance for our manifold sins; and yet we have not rendered unto thee according to the goodness we have received. Our whole lives present a melancholy contrast between thine abundant compassion and our ingratitude. They furnish us with an innumerable series of vast benefits, followed by a train of backslidings. Neither mercies, nor warnings, nor judgments, nor privileges, have produced on us that durable influence they were calculated to effect. Yet, although we deserve new rebukes and corrections, and might justly be brought low for our iniquity, thou art willing to deal with us not according to our trespasses, but according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. We thank thee that we have one greater than Moses to stand in the breach for us; behold our shield; look on us in the face of thine Anointed. We rejoice to think he ascended up on high that he might lead captivity captive, and receive gifts even for the rebellious, that God the Lord might dwell among them. As rebellious sinners we would implore the favors he has purchased for such as we are. We are indeed dogs; but dogs such as we are may eat of the crumbs which fall from our Master's table. Feed us with the living bread that came down from heaven; pardon all our iniquities; receive us graciously, and love us freely, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XXII.

O LORD, thou art the Father of light, with whom there is neither variableness nor shadow of turning. Give us strength to discharge the many arduous duties incumbent upon us here. It hath pleased thee, that in Christ all fulness should dwell; may we obtain from his exhaustless stores enough to supply our wants, and arm us with vigor for all the difficulties and temptations before us. We have evil hearts that indispose us for all that thou requirest, and an evil enemy who is ready to inflame our corruption. Assist us in our spiritual warfare. When we would do good, evil is present with us, but thou canst make the worm Jacob thrash the mountains, and beat them as chaff; thou delightest to make thy strength perfect in our weakness. We rejoice to think that our elder brother is seated on the throne of the universe, that he is touched with a feeling of our infirmities, and that having suffered, being tempted, he is able to succor those that are tempted. We plead that, for his sake, we may be strengthened with all might by thy Spirit in the inner man; that our faith be like that of the just, resembling the morning light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. We are bowed down by many depressing infirmities, we are encumbered with a burden of sin, which makes us exclaim, O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death? but we rejoice to think he can give us a victory over the dominion of sin; he can give us

the faith which works by love, and purifies the heart, and overcomes the world. We delight to know that he came not only that we might have life, but that we might have it more abundantly; he has promised us such abundant communications of grace, that out of us shall flow rivers of living water. We would rest on these declarations, in full confidence that what thou hast promised, thou art fully able to accomplish. Make us triumphant in all our conflicts with the powers of darkness, and bring us finally to the rest that remaineth to the people of God, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS XI.

O LORD, help us to be followers of those who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises. Thou hast set before us a cloud of witnesses, who, though naturally encompassed with the same frailties as ourselves, have soared above the temptations and snares of this life, and who, in the most arduous situations, have been more than conquerors over every enemy. Help us, like them, to follow the Lamb of God whithersoever he goeth. We thank thee for those sacred ordinances, such as the sacramental supper, by which our faith is quickened, our hope is enlivened, and our preparedness for heaven advanced. But we have to lament that we have often defiled the most hallowed institutions with our abominable lusts; we have carried them like foul ill-omened birds into the house of God, and resembled the disciples of Christ, who, on the very night of the last passover, were betrayed into an unseasonable contention as to which of them should be the greatest. Pardon the sins of our holy things; for they form a peculiar aggravation of our other transgressions, and withdraw not from us those religious privileges which we have despised; in wrath remember mercy: Thou didst dwell among the Israelites in the wilderness, by a visible symbol of thy presence for forty years, and though their provocations were heinous, thou didst never withdraw from them that endearing pledge of thy favor: their murmurings, their contempt of thine authority, did not make thee forsake them. And, Lord, leave not us; though thou mayest visit our iniquities with rods, and our transgressions with stripes, take not thy loving-kindness from us, nor suffer thy faithfulness to fail. Vouchsafe still to bear with us; and finally, conduct us to that world where we shall be freed from all remains of that sin which provokes thee to hide thy face from us; for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XXIV.

FATHER of lights, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift, send forth thy light and thy truth, and enable us to walk

therein. O give us the wisdom that is from above, that we may fear thee, and depart from evil, and do thy will continually. Lead us to the rock that is higher than we; and there may we have a resting-place, secure from every weapon formed against us. Cleanse our souls from sin, in the blood of sprinkling, and let the Spirit of grace work effectually in us, that the enemy and the avenger may have nothing against us. Preserve us from all evil affections, and lead us in the way of righteousness and life. Let envy, and fretfulness, covetousness, and revenge, the love of evil society, and of them that are given to change, and to sloth, and wickedness, be far from us. Give us prudence to manage our affairs with discretion, and direction in all the difficulties of our state. May our hearts be softened and freed from selfishness, that we sympathize with the afflicted, and deliver the needy and distressed, as we have opportunity. May we have faithfulness and firmness to discourage transgressors in their wickedness, and to be helpers to the righteous in every labor of love and godliness. Enable us to render to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor; and to owe no man anything, but to love and serve him. May the same mind be in us which was in Christ, whose meat it was to do thy will, and finish the work for which he came into this world. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to thy glory, and be, at last, admitted to thy presence on high, there to be blessed forever. May these blessings be also given to all for whom we should offer up our prayers at thy throne. Be very gracious to our rulers, and all in lawful authority in the land, and the whole body of the people. Bless the church established amongst us, and may it long be distinguished for the purity of its doctrines and discipline, and the faithfulness and success of its pastors and people, in everything well-pleasing in thy sight. Let thy blessing also rest on other churches that walk in Christ Jesus, and maintain the truth as it is in him. Remove all error and corruption from every community of professing Christians, and send the light of thy gospel over the whole world. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS XII.

O THOU who canst enlighten the dark mind, subdue the proud will, and break the hard heart, be pleased to destroy the natural man in us, and enable us to feel that we are renewed unto righteousness. Give us the manifestation of the Spirit, that we may know that we are in Christ Jesus, and are members of his body in particular. For every such evidence of renewing grace in our souls, O Lord, make us thankful. Enable us to have the temper of mind, and the character of life, to which it should lead. May we have that faith in Christ which takes hold of his finished work, and to

which, alone, pardon and peace are promised. May we have that feeling of fellowship towards them that are in Christ which overcomes selfishness, and schism, which keeps the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and prompts to brotherly-kindness, and charity, and every good work. May we honor and aid one another in everything pertaining to life and to godliness, that thereby we may be fellow-workers with all saints, in edifying the body of Christ, and giving glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. May we all, in our several places, and according to our several gifts, reverence thine appointments, and attend to the duties assigned to us. We bless thee, most gracious God, for the protection and direction, and manifold mercies which thou hast vouchsafed to us during the course of the past day's events, and for all our present privileges and comforts. Watch around our dwelling this night, and let no evil come nigh unto any one of us. Forgive our sins; sanctify our souls; prepare our hearts for all the duties and enjoyments of thy day; and fit us for life, death, judgment, and eternity. May there be many, too, among our kindred and neighbors, and in all ranks of life, made partakers of these blessings. May thy ministers and people have all a portion of heavenly things given to them, suited to the several departments of service in which they have to labor. May thy work go on in every land, and in every heart, till all, whom thou hast appointed unto life, shall be perfected, and gathered together in Zion above. Let the time come when the whole earth will be the Lord's, and the dwellers therein his ransomed ones, through Jesus Christ; so let it be. Amen, and Amen.

Thirty-Fourth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS XCVII. XCVIII.

KING of kings, and Lord of lords, to whom every knee must bow, and every tongue confess, how fearful and wonderful are thy works among the children of men! Thou reignest over thine enemies in clouds and darkness, in righteousness and judgment. When thou takest vengeance on them, they are confounded, and tremble, and melt as wax at thy presence. Thou reignest, also, over them that love thee in grace and peace. Thou preservest the souls of thy saints, and deliverest them from the hand of the wicked. Thou givest them light and direction in times of perplexity and trouble, and fillest their hearts with gladness. Thou hast done marvellous things in their behalf. Thine own right hand hath won for them the victory over the enemy; and the salvation which that victory has made theirs,

thou hast openly showed in the sight of the heathen. For all these things, O Lord, we desire to rejoice, and to sing a new song unto thee. Our hearts will be glad before thee, and we will make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. We bless thee for this day which thou hast given us to call these wonders of thy mercy to our remembrance. O enable us to count it honorable, and to devote it to thy holy work. May it be a day of thy right hand, and of delight to our souls. May it add strength to our hatred of evil, and love of holiness, and make us walk more determinately by faith, and not by sight. O deliver us from the pollution, the power, and the punishment of sin, through the righteousness of our Redeemer, and the grace of our Sanctifier; and may all our sabbaths on earth tend to fit us the more effectually for the endless sabbath, which the ransomed of the Lord enjoy in heaven. May much bread be cast upon the waters, and much seed be sown in good ground this day, and many hungry souls be satisfied with the goodness of thy house. May all that preach, all that hear, and all that read, thy word, feel its power, and live as it directs. O send it forth into all lands, and make thy salvation extend to the ends of the earth. Bless thine own work everywhere, that many may rejoice when thou comest to judge the world in righteousness, and the people in equity, by Jesus Christ. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS XCIX. C. CI.

O LORD, thou art great in Zion, and high above all the people. Thou sittest between the cherubim in awful majesty, executing judgment and righteousness in Jacob, and taking vengeance on the sinful inventions of men. When we think of all this, our souls bow down before thee, and with godly fear we worship at thy footstool. But thou art also good and gracious, forgiving the sins of thy people, and answering the supplications which they offer up to thee. Thy mercy is everlasting, and thy truth endureth forever. O God, thou hast made us, and not we ourselves. We are thy people, the sheep of thy pasture. The good Shepherd hath laid down his life for us, and revived our souls, and led us beside still waters. Our lines have fallen in pleasant places, in a land of ordinances, where thy word, thy sabbaths, and the assemblies of thy people, refresh our souls, and make our hearts glad. For all these precious privileges we bless and magnify thy glorious name. We adore and praise thee for all thy benefits bestowed on us this day, whether in thy house, when worshipping with thy people, or in our family intercourse, when speaking of thy wonders of grace to us; or in our solitude, when thinking of the numberless mercies we have received at thy hand. As a family of thy favored ones, grateful for past mercies, we desire to glorify thee; and feeling our manifold infirmities, we pray that thou wouldst enable us to serve thee faithfully in time to come.

May we daily sing of mercy and judgment unto thee, and behave ourselves wisely in a perfect way. May we walk within our house with a perfect heart, and set no wicked thing before our eyes. May we hate the work of all that turn aside from thee, and cut off from our fellowship all that do wickedly. May our eyes be on the faithful of the land, and our delights with them that serve thee. Let such dwell with us, that this house may be a Bethel, where thy name is loved and honored, and thy blessings abound. Let all the dwellings, also, in this neighborhood, and throughout the land, and throughout the whole world, be places wherein thou makest thine abode. May the sanctifying influences of thy word and sabbaths be felt even to the ends of the earth. Let thy truths, which have this day been proclaimed to many, be remembered and made profitable to them; and may they be declared and received wherever they are yet unknown. O let thy kingdom rule over all, and in all, now, henceforth, and forever, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XXVI.

O LORD, pour out upon us, at this time, the spirit of grace and the spirit of supplications, that we may offer unto thee the prayer of faith, and obtain the blessings which thou hast promised to thine acceptable worshippers. May our prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the morning sacrifice. We bless thee for the mercies of the past night; that our sleep hath not been unto death, and our awaking in the world of spirits; and that we are the living, the living to praise thee, as we do this day. We thank thee for the privileges of the Christian sabbath which we yesterday enjoyed. Thou didst bring us to thy holy temple, and make us joyful in thy house of prayer. May the solemn impressions then made not terminate with the day of sacred rest. May we carry the spirit of the sabbath with us into the other days of the week, and seek to have them all leavened with its heavenly influence. May we remember, when we go forth into the world, that we have been on the mount with God; and though we have now descended from it, may our faces still shine, and may men take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. We beseech thee, heavenly Father, to grant unto us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, and to enlighten the darkened eyes of our understanding. We confess that folly is bound up in our hearts, and frequently manifests its influence in our lives. Deliver us from its fatal dominion, and lead us to cry after knowledge, and lift up our voice for understanding. May we repose no confidence in our own wisdom, but seek for that wisdom which cometh from above. May we beware of sinking into a state of lukewarmness and spiritual indifference, sporting ourselves with our own deceivings, and lulling our souls into the slumbers of spiritual death. In our intercourse

with our fellow-men, may we walk in wisdom towards them that are without, and be preserved from the malice and the calumnies of the ungodly. Or if we must endure griefs, suffering wrongfully, may we consider him that endureth such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest we be wearied and faint in our minds. We wait for thy salvation, O Lord; and we entreat that it may be the portion of every member of this family, of all with whom we stand connected, and of all whom we should bear upon our hearts when we approach thy throne. When we rise from thy footstool, may we not be estranged from thy gracious presence. Compass us with thy favor as with a shield; and in thy name may we rejoice all the day. May the Lord deliver us from every evil work, and preserve us unto his heavenly kingdom. To him, with the Son, and the ever-blessed Spirit, be glory forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS XIII.

ETERNAL and ever-blessed God, look down from heaven, the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory, upon us who are kneeling this evening before thy throne of grace. To thee belongeth righteousness; but unto us shame and confusion of face, because we have sinned against thee. Blessed be thy name, that, notwithstanding our helplessness and unworthiness, thou hast not cast us off utterly and forever, but hast revealed to us a glorious Saviour and a great salvation, and hast proclaimed thyself as just, and yet the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. Forbid that any of us should receive thy grace in vain, or that we should refuse to close with the offers of a beseeching Saviour. If we have been enabled to receive Christ Jesus the Lord, may we walk in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith as we have been taught. And when we put on the breastplate of faith and love, may we take for an helmet the hope of salvation. May the hope set before us be the anchor of our souls, sure and steadfast, and entering in within the veil. Grant that while our faith and hope fail not, they may ever work by love. May the love of God be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us. And may we purify our hearts in obeying the truth through the Spirit, unto unfeigned love of the brethren, and thus know that we have passed from death unto life. Under the influence of this spirit of love, we would make intercession for all our brethren of mankind. Let thy way be known upon the earth, and thy saving health among all nations. Have mercy upon thine ancient people, who are still beloved for the fathers' sakes, and remove the veil from their hearts. May thy name soon be great among the Gentiles, from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same. And may thy Spirit be poured out upon the churches in copious effusion. Remember our absent relations and friends. May great grace, mercy, and peace, be multiplied unto them all.

Draw near to the afflicted. Comfort those who seek for repose in vain, and are full of tossings to and fro until the dawning of the day. Protect us during the hours of darkness and silence. May no evil befall us, no plague come nigh our dwelling. And when that night comes when we shall lie down to awake not again till the heavens be no more, Lord, grant that we may sleep in Jesus, and be satisfied when we awake with thy likeness. These our supplications we present before thee in the name of our Redeemer, and for his sake we beseech thee to send us an answer of peace, and the glory shall be thine for evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XXVII.

O LORD, thou art from everlasting to everlasting God. Thy years are throughout all generations. But as for man his days are as grass, and as a flower of the field he fades away. We know not what a day may bring forth: for our times are entirely in thy hand. We are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled. Lord, teach us then to know our end, and the measure of our days, that we may know how frail we are. Suffer us not to hold things transient as with an immortal grasp. May we not have our only portion in this life. May we be content with the allotments of thy providence, and feel that the least of all thy mercies exceeds our deservings. Teach us implicit submission to thy will, however trying thy dispensations may be. Let it not be said of us, Thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved: thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction. May we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt us in due time. Alas! we must confess that we have provoked the infliction of thy righteous judgments. For we have misimproved our privileges. We have followed after vanity, and have become vain. We have loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. We have not delighted as we ought, in holding communion with thy people; and unfrequent has been our fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. Instead of mounting up with wings as eagles, we have been contented to grovel in the dust. Our love soon waxes cold. Our faith becomes feeble and ready to expire. Our affections are entangled with the things of time. A multitude of vain thoughts rush tumultuously into our minds. The adversary obtains an advantage over us. And by our secret transgressions, and sinful conformity to the world, we estrange our souls from thee. But, Lord, we would return unto thee, though we have fallen by our iniquity. We would plead the merits of thy Son for the pardon of our guilt. We implore the aids of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in the hour of temptation. May we instantly comply with his holy suggestions; and surrender our whole souls to him with unresisting acquiescence. As we are now about to mingle with the world, do thou keep us

from the evil. May we be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. May every member of this family, and all our beloved relations and friends, be members of the household of faith. May we all walk with God on earth, that we may dwell with him forever in heaven. All that we ask, and all that we hope to obtain, is for the sake of Jesus, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS XIV.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the omnipotent and omniscient Jehovah: as the searcher of the hearts, and the trier of the reins of the children of men. At all times we are surrounded by thy presence, and subjected to the piercing gaze of thine omniscience: but especially are we naked and open to the eyes of thee with whom we have to do, when we approach thee in the exercises of worship, and advance into the sanctuary, when thou who dwellest between the cherubim shinest forth to thy people. May we take heed to ourselves that we offer not strange fire which thou hast not commanded, lest thou shine forth to us in terrible majesty, and consume the offerers instead of accepting of the offering. Realizing thy presence, may we lie low in the dust of which we were made, acknowledging our weakness, and our vileness. But while overwhelmed with a sense of our unworthiness and guilt, may we be cheered by beholding thy glory as it shines in the face of Jesus; and be enabled to feel that in him thou art reconciled; so that we who were once afar off, are now made nigh by the blood of Christ. And having thus liberty of access to thee at all times, may we value more than we hitherto have done, the ordinances of thine appointment. In them may we meet with the Saviour, and be satisfied with his goodness. May we even pray with the spirit, and with the understanding also. As new-born babes, may we desire the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby. May nothing be done through strife or vain-glory, but in lowliness of mind. May we thus become strong in faith, abound in hope, and have the flame of divine love not only kindled within us, but rendered more bright, and glowing, and unquenchable. Prosper thy cause, we beseech thee, in our native land. Give us a season of refreshing from thy presence. Send a plenteous rain to confirm thine inheritance when it is weary. Pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh. Turn away ungodliness from Jacob. Bring in the fulness of the Gentile nations. Let satan's kingdom be destroyed. Advance thine own. Be gracious to those who are laid on beds of languishing and pain. May all who are near and dear to us participate in thy favor. Accept of our thanksgivings for the mercies of the past day. When we are sunk in unconscious slumber, may the angel of the Lord encamp around our dwelling, and do thou, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, watch over us, and bless us. And now unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, we ascribe the praise, and the glory, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XXVIII.

O GOD most holy, incline our hearts unto thy worship in the name of Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and man. Heavenly Father, direct our thoughts and our words by the promised Spirit, helping our infirmities. Blessed art thou, O God. In thy presence is fulness of joy; and out of the river of thy pleasures hast thou given a portion to the creatures of thine hand. Even in our fallen condition here, thou daily loadest us with thy benefits, while thy word telleth us that we are departed far from thee, and have provoked thine anger, and are visited by thy corrections for our many sins. We must own thee to be just, in causing vanity and vexation of spirit to be mingled with our present state; yea, we have cause to say, Great is thy long-suffering and patience. It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail not. Thou, O God, mightest justly have left us to perish in our sins. Yet thou art giving us warning to turn away from evil, and thou art giving us counsel that thou mightest bring us unto good. Praise be unto thee, who thereby provest unto us thy fatherly love, and shonest unto us that thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that he should turn unto thee and live. How much more have we cause to exalt thy name for that way of access now opened up by the Saviour, so that the sinner might be brought back to thee. Thou hast not suffered the weight of our sin to fall on our own head; but thou hast laid the iniquity of us all on him who came to take away the sin of the world. Through him thy long-suffering waiteth to lead us unto repentance. Through him thy grace inviteth us to reconciliation, and the gift of righteousness, and sanctification, and eternal life; nevertheless, if left to ourselves, we cannot believe in thy good-will toward us, nor can we accept thine offered gifts. O give unto us the Spirit. Let our hearts be melted by his power, that we may abhor ourselves and repent in dust and ashes—that we may know the love of Christ constraining us. Then shall thy commandment be no longer grievous unto us; but we shall delight in all thy counsel, leading us in the way of holiness, and turning us away from all manner of iniquity; and whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, we shall do all to the glory of God. We desire to thank thee for thy goodness in bringing us to a new day. Take us under thy care. Preserve us from all evil. Keep us back from all sin, not only as fearing thine anger, but also as trusting in thy goodness and loving-kindness. Be thou near unto all that seek thee and the glory of thy kingdom, strengthen their hearts by faith in thy promises, and let the works of righteousness and peace be multiplied. Give a Spirit of grace and supplications to all that are in sickness and trouble, and make them to know thy compassions. Regard not our unworthiness. Take away our iniquities. Hear, and answer us in peace, for the sake of Christ Jesus. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS XV. 1-34.

THOU, O God, alone art worthy to be adored who hast life in thyself, and with whom is the fountain of life. By thy power, at the first, was man made a living soul. By his own sin, who was the covenant head of human kind, came death which hath reigned over all. How dark hath been its reign over the children of men! How grievous the bondage unto which many have been subject all their lifetime through the fear of it! How unutterable its terrors, as it leadeth downward to that second death which is in weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth! We desire to abase ourselves before thee, and to acknowledge that such is, by nature, our inheritance; and that except thy good-will towards us prevent, such will be, ere long, our portion. May our souls be stirred up unto the trembling that becometh us. May we be moved to ask with unfeigned earnestness, What must we do to be saved? Thanks be to thee, O Lord God, that thine own word doth encourage us to look to thee for help. Of old thou didst promise that the serpent and his work should be destroyed. In the fulness of the times thou hast given the deliverer Christ Jesus, that he, by tasting death for every man, might destroy death and him that had the power of death. Blessed are they who believe on him. They find in Jesus, the second Adam, a quickening Spirit having power to give life to as many as he will. They look unto him, the Prince of life, who suffered and died, and rose again and revived, that he might become the author of eternal life to as many as believe on his name. O make us to be partakers with such, that we may live and not die. Behold we are yet in the place of hope, and we are invited to come unto Jesus who is the resurrection and the life. We have the promise not only of pardon and of renewing grace, but also of life complete in the likeness of him who was dead and is alive again, and liveth for evermore. Suffer us not to provoke thee to anger by unbelief. Let us not doubt either thy good-will, or thy power, to glorify thyself in saving us to the uttermost. But yielding to thee in faith unfeigned, and in repentance not to be repented of, may we wait to be filled with all the fulness of God; according to thy good pleasure which thou hast purposed in thyself, and according to the power that worketh in thy people, exceeding abundantly above all that they ask or think. Be pleased, O Lord, to glorify thy word in this place and neighborhood, and in our land, and among the nations of the earth. Bring again the children of Abraham from their unbelief, to honor Jesus as Lord and Christ. Take us, and all that are dear to us, under thy keeping. Accept, in the name of Jesus, whatsoever thou hast enabled us to do this day according to thy will. Blot out our offences and shortcomings. Watch over us in the night. And incline us by thy grace from evening to morning, and from morning to evening, to be committing our souls unto the Saviour's hands, so that

when he cometh we may be found watching, and may be accepted in him the Beloved. Hear us in his name, and answer us graciously for his sake. Amen

THURSDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XXIX.

HEAVENLY Father, it becometh us to adore thee as the only wise God, of whose understanding there is no searching. It becomes us, also, to abase ourselves before thee, because we are of yesterday, and know nothing. May we be brought to thy word, given to us to make known thy will; and let the convictions, the desires, and the purposes stirred up in us by the reading and hearing of it, bring forth in our lives the fruits of righteousness. O may a sense of thy power and great glory dwell in our hearts, that we may fear to offend, and may say to each temptation, How shall I do this wickedness, and sin against God? Then should we escape from the snares of evil, and be delivered from many sorrows; then should we also lay hold on much good that is now passing away from us, or hid in the earth as a talent bringing no increase. But how, O God most holy, shall our hearts be brought into the exercise of such love towards thee? They are by nature enmity to thee; that enmity is increased by multiplied transgressions, so that ofttimes we remember God and are troubled. We would do good, and evil is present with us. We own the commandment to be holy, and just, and good, while yet it is grievous to us, and we are ready to cry out, O wretched, who shall deliver us from the body of this death and inward corruption. Ever blessed be thy name, O God and Father of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thou hast brought unto us salvation in him. In him thou dost draw unto thyself a people loving thee, because thou first lovedst them. Thou makest them to know the love of God shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto them; and by the power thereof they are enabled to say, Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Make us partakers with them. Let Christ Jesus be made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption, and we shall know that the faith which is in him is indeed the overcoming of the world. Multiply, O Lord, the number of those throughout the earth who shall become monuments of the riches of thy grace, their good works putting to silence the ignorance of the foolish. Let thy word have free course and be glorified, till the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of God and of his Anointed, and the children of Israel be brought in with the fulness of the Gentiles. Refresh our native land with the influence of thy grace. Dwell in our house with thy blessing. Keep what concerneth us, and all who are dear to us. Preserve them by thy mighty power through faith unto salvation. Preserve us this day in thy fear. Let our going out and our coming in be directed and blessed by thee; and if thou bring us unto the

evening, may we have to present unto thee some fruits of obedience to thy praise. All that we ask is in the name of Christ Jesus our intercessor. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS. XV. 35-58.

LIFT our souls unto thee, O God, and teach us to bless thee, who art become our salvation. Great is thy faithfulness who keepest covenant and mercy even to them who trust in thee. Hast thou spoken, and shalt thou not do it? has often been the language of thy people in the days when they waited on thee. How much more doth it become us to joy in thee, O God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! In him thou hast visited thy people with a salvation exceeding great, even the abolishing of death, the spoiling principalities and powers, and making a show of them openly, triumphing over them. Thou permittest us to see, in the risen Saviour, the first-fruits of them that sleep, the earnest of redemption, from the power of the grave, for all that are given unto him. O suffer not our faith to fail because of the greatness of the promises. Incline us, in the spirit of the little child, to believe, because the Lord hath spoken it; and to say, in the name of Jesus, Be it unto us, O Lord, according to thy word. Leave us not, therefore, to look only at the sinfulness and transgressions that cover us, and call down thy righteous vengeance, that render us unworthy of the grace and glory promised. But enable us also to look unto Jesus becoming poor, that he might make many rich; magnifying the law, that he might deliver many from its curse; making himself an offering, that through sufferings he might be perfect as a Captain of salvation. And let our souls be strengthened by faith in him, to joy in God, through the atonement, as a just God and a Saviour, when, in the name of Jesus, many souls are made rich in the gift of eternal life, when many sons and daughters are brought unto glory, and when the redemption of soul and body from all the effects of sin and death shall cause them to say, O death! where is thy sting? O grave! where is thy victory? Thanks be unto thee, O Lord, that it is so preached unto us. Help us by the Holy Spirit given unto us so to believe. Called with such an hope, may we never cease to feel that it is an high and holy calling; and may this be the testimony of our conscience, that it moveth us to diligence in laying aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and may it stir us up to be reaching daily after the things that are before, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. Visit the sons and daughters of affliction, and all such as draw nigh to death. Bring unto them the comfort of this gospel of the resurrection and the life eternal. Speak peace to the hearts of those who are still subject to bondage through fear of death. Look in thy compassions on the dark places of the earth where death reigns. Let the light of the Sun of righteousness speedily shine unto them.

Make the children of Abraham to see the glory of him who redeemed from the power of the grave. Take away our unworthiness. Look on the face of thine Anointed; and for his sake keep us now, henceforth, and forever, and do in us, and by us, exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think; and to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glory now and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—PROVERBS XXX.

O ALMIGHTY God, we would this morning approach the footstool of thy throne with our earnest supplications, in the all-prevailing name and merits of Jesus Christ. We bless thee for the gracious preservation we have experienced during the past night, and would desire to have on our minds a deep sense of our dependence on that kind providence, of whose beneficent care we are generally unconscious, and always unworthy. Called as we have been, by thy free mercy, to the knowledge of the gospel, we would earnestly beseech thee that, through thy grace, we may be enabled to see our natural darkness with respect to the truths of salvation, and our natural inability to do thy holy will, and that, by thy grace, we may be led to the foot of the cross, to look in faith on him whom we have pierced, and be healed. We would bless thee with our whole hearts, for the many blessings that surround our lot. Teach us, O Lord, in whatever state we are, therewith to be content. Renewed by grace, may we be enabled to devote our faculties to thy glory and the benefit of our brethren of mankind; and regarding time in the light of eternity, may we, by the teaching of the Spirit, know, savingly and to profit, the truth, that now is the accepted time, and now is the day of salvation. Through thy grace may we be led to make a daily progress in Christian holiness, in controlling our appetites and passions, and in loving our brethren, especially such as are of the household of faith. Grant that the love of Christ constraining us, we may count it our privilege to devote to thy service, and the cause of the Saviour, a portion of our substance as God hath prospered us. O God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, we pray for a blessing on the preaching of the truth everywhere, that it may go forth conquering and to conquer. We pray for the poor and the afflicted, that they may be the poor in spirit, and that they may have thee for their comforter. We pray for the members of this household, that they may be enlightened by the Spirit with that wisdom which maketh wise savingly and to profit, and guided by thy grace through the paths of this deceitful world. Throughout this day, O Father of mercies, would we commend ourselves to thy protection. May the arms of thy love be ever about us. And having on our minds an abiding sense of thy holy presence, by thy grace may we be enabled to spend this day to thy glory. And all we ask and hope is for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—1 CORINTHIANS XVI.

O THOU who in Jesus Christ hast declared thyself to be the hearer of prayer, pour out, we beseech thee, into our cold hearts the spirit of supplication, that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth. We would bless thy holy name that, at the close of another day, we are permitted to praise thee in the land of the living and the place of hope. But, O God, who art the searcher of hearts, how little have we had thee in our thoughts! How deeply must we lament our coldness in thy service, and our warm interest in the follies and unsatisfying vanities of this world! O how little have we communed with thee; how seldom have our meditations been of the blessed Saviour! and how little have we feared to grieve the Spirit! O Lord, help thou our unbelief. O may thy grace be made sufficient for us, that we may be entirely delivered from the evil heart of unbelief, from the influences exercised by a corrupting world. May Christ subdue our souls unto himself. We pray, O Lord, that the Spirit of truth may work in us the deepest sense of our gospel privileges, the strongest impression of the awful responsibility under which they have been bestowed, and of the heavy obligation under which we are bound to improve them in thy strength, to thy glory, and to the benefit of the souls of men. We bless thee, O Lord, for the blessing of a faithful ministry of the gospel. O for the sake of thy beloved Son, command thy blessing on thy servants who are proclaiming the message of salvation. O Father of mercies, enter not into judgment with us for the sins and short-comings of the day that is about to close; but may they be blotted out in the blood of the Lamb. God forbid that we should be deceiving ourselves into the belief that we are among the number of thy people, while we are making to ourselves other lords and other saviours than the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world. O Lord, shield us while we rest this night. If it be thy will that we shall behold the light of another day, may it find us prepared for thy service. Hear us in Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES I.

MOST merciful God! who hast spread thy covering wings around us during the silence of the night, we would again address to thee the voice of thanksgiving—that while many have been summoned to judgment, thou art still lengthening out our days of preparation. While we bless thee for all thy temporal mercies, above all would we bless thee that we know that Jesus Christ hath died to save sinners. Fallen and guilty as we are, by nature the children of wrath.

yet, through the work of the Spirit, may we be enabled to lay all our burden on him who is mighty, and willing, and able to save unto the uttermost. We bless thee, O Lord, that our lot has been surrounded with innumerable advantages, and that we have so many encouragements to the improvement of our faculties. May we then be enabled, by thy grace, to devote them to thy glory, and putting far from us the fleshly mind which puffeth up, cling to the wisdom which maketh wise to everlasting life. Cast down every vain imagination and thought that exalteth itself, and every presumptuous and impious work in aught but the perfect work of Jesus Christ. May our hearts be satisfied with the fulness of his love, and our souls be filled with the peace of God which passeth all understanding; and may we be made to taste the stability and happiness of those who, justified by his blood, and sanctified by the Spirit, are become members of thy family. This day would we commit and commend ourselves to thy gracious care and protection. Shield us by thy providence, guide us by thy grace, enable us to devote this day to thy service. May we ever find thee at our right hand, and at our left. May we be enabled to look up unto thee in the discharge of every social and private duty, and be deeply impressed with a sense of our responsibility. Abandon us not unto ourselves. Grant an answer in peace to our imperfect supplications, and do unto us abundantly above what we can ask or think, for the sake of him whom thou hearest always. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS I.

ALMIGHTY God! who wast, who art, and who art to come, we would lift our souls in grateful acknowledgments unto thee, that we have this day received so many tokens of thy love and mercy. O may we, through thy grace, be enabled to remember the rapid flight of that time which is fast hurrying us into eternity; and to look forward with joy to that eternity, as purchased for us by the blood of Jesus Christ. Father of our spirits, our earnest supplication at the footstool of thy throne of grace is, that the warmest love of Christ may be kindled in our souls. O how cold have our hearts hitherto been towards that Saviour, who, while we were yet sinners, gave himself for us. O thou, before whom our secret thoughts are open, well doth it become us to tremble, when we reflect how little we have loved the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and in truth. Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the wonders of redeeming love being continually made present to our minds by the influences of divine grace, we may feel our hearts animated with the liveliest affection towards him whose love passeth knowledge. May we be enabled to show it forth towards all the members of Christ's body, and to make it manifest, that we regard it as our privilege to dedicate ourselves to thy blessed service. O Lord, by thy grace may we guard against

that hypocrisy, which, professing to love the Lord Jesus Christ, is indifferent to the great interests of the gospel, and the salvation of souls. O may the iniquities of this day, and of the week, not be remembered against us. And having the Spirit of supplication poured out upon us, may we be enabled more diligently to watch, and more fervently to pray, that we enter not into temptation. We would desire this night to commit ourselves to thy fatherly care, that no evil thing may come near us to hurt us. If we shall be preserved to another day, a day which thou claimest as thine own, O may our hearts, through thy grace, be solemnized to its duties. May we go up to thy house as those who delight in thy courts. And there may we experience a blessed communion with the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. We spread our supplications before thee. Hear, in heaven thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest, forgive, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Thirty-Fifth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CII.

O LORD, thou art our confidence and our strength, wherefore should refuge fail us? Wherefore should the noise of great waters from without trouble us, and we go mourning all the day? What time our souls are overwhelmed and in perplexity, lead thou us to the Rock that is higher than we, for in the shadow of thy wings will we make our refuge, until these our calamities be wholly overpast. Blessed be thy name it is God and not man we have had to trust unto, else must we have already been consumed, instead of being privileged, as this day, to bow before thee, both at this time, and, as we hope, in the sanctuary, in the great congregation, at once the living monuments of the mercy, and, through Christ Jesus the beloved, the expectants and the sharers of thy grace. Enable us, we beseech thee, to approach unto thee in faith; and humbled, deeply humbled under a sense of our own unworthiness, grant that we may find, even at this hour, that there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared; yea, mercy to pardon, and grace to help in every time of need. Lord, not only would we confess the evil, but we would deplore before thee the sinfulness of sin, and the miseries attendant upon it, as still witnessed, alas! in our breasts. Our days, in consequence, are like a shadow that declineth; we are withered as the grass because of thine indignation and thy wrath. Yet, O the comfort of thy covenant children! Though in wrath, yet to them thou rememberest mercy. Thou hast pity on Zion. Thou

shalt appear in thy glory when thou buildest her again. In sadness, therefore, thou caused us to hope, and in sorrow the souls of thy people are comforted. Give us grace this day to behold thee in righteousness, through the righteousness of him who alone in thy sight is exalted. Let the cry of the destitute come up before thee; and looking each of us towards thee as the gracious restorer of Zion's children, may Judah rejoice and Israel be glad. Thou, Lord, art everlasting; but we are perishing: thou endurest; but we are of none abiding. It is of thy great mercy that we have been permitted to see the light of another returning sabbath. Grant, we beseech thee, that waiting upon thee this day in the sanctuary, its services may to us be sweet, and its exercises refreshing unto our souls. And now to the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CIII.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Nevertheless, exalted as thou art in thy heavenly excellency, yet thou condescendest to visit, and even to dwell, with man upon the earth, so that ourselves can testify of thy goodness, and our own lips show forth thy wondrous praise. Bless the Lord, then, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name; bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. Adored be thy name thou hast not confined thy grace and mercy to former generations; but thy ways made known to Moses of old, and thine acts to Israel's sons, have not only been extended unto, but enlarged in our day. Nevertheless, gracious Father, it becometh us to confess, that these thy mercies we have not appreciated, and our privileges in the gospel we have not improved, and justly mightest thou, in times past, have visited us accordingly. Yet, blessed be thy name, thou hast not so dealt with us after our sins, nor so rewarded us according to our iniquities. O that our minds and hearts may hence be turned toward thee as a merciful Father, and a kind, and gracious, and compassionate God. May the love of Christ constrain, may the grace of the Spirit sanctify us, that as far as east is from the west, so far may be removed our transgressions from us. Daily art thou reminding us, Lord, of our frailty and mortality, that our days are as the grass, our lives but as an handbreadth. O that this consideration may lead us to close the more readily with, and to cling the faster unto, that refuge which mercy hath provided, and the gospel hath made sure. We bless thee, Lord, for the opportunity already enjoyed of meeting together this day in thy house of prayer, and so having the remembrance of thy loving-kindness renewed to us in the morning. O that we may be the rather quickened thereby to show forth, in turn, thy faithfulness this night. Take us now, we beseech thee, under the shadow of thy wing; and

may all dear unto us equally enjoy the comforts of thy protection and the sweetness of thy fellowship. Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach. May the heathen everywhere speedily come to know and to appreciate thy character; and may all that oppose themselves now, soon be made to acknowledge and to bow before thy power. Hear, Lord, and accept these our humble prayers. Pardon thou our imperfect services. And all that we ask, and all that we hope for, is in and through Christ, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES II.

ENABLE us, O Lord, to draw near unto thee this morning under a deep sense of our obligations unto thee, and of our entire dependence upon thee for every needful blessing. None, Lord, but thy providence can minister unto our necessities, and nothing but thine abundant grace in Christ Jesus can meet the wants, or fully and effectively supply the exigencies of our souls. O that we had grace given us to teach us this dependence, and that we might be led from day to day to give practical proof and demonstration thereof, by casting ourselves upon thee, and seeking our refuge alone on thy faithfulness. But, alas! O Lord, we have not only forfeited thy favor by our sins, but we have thought to satisfy ourselves without it. We have sought, in this respect, the living among the dead, and have said, Peace, peace, to our souls, when there could be no peace. How often and how foolishly have we looked to things without for that comfort and security which are alone to be found in thee! We have said unto ourselves, Lo! here, and lo! there, are these to be found; but, alas! we only deceived ourselves; our foundation was in the dust, instead of resting with thyself on the holy mountains. Thy people, in a word, have committed two evils; we have forsaken thee, the fountain of living waters, and have been hewing to ourselves cisterns, broken cisterns, which could hold no water. And often, O Lord, as we have been deceived thereby, and often as we have been disappointed through our own devices, still we have had recourse but to another and another such, neither holier nor better than any which preceded them, and respecting which we had repeatedly declared, This also is vanity. True, indeed, our own wickedness might now well correct us, and our own repeated backslidings might well reprove us; yet, alas! our own experience, in times past, but too sadly confirms the truth and the testimony of the word, that without thy teaching, without the convicting, enlightening, sanctifying influences of thy grace, all is, and will be, ineffectual; all doth but end in vanity and in vexation of spirit. We come, therefore, O Lord, to thee. Lord, we plead with thee, we plead the merits of him who alone hath merit, and who suffered and died for us, that we might have access to thee through him; and instead of say-

ing, as before, Who will show us any good? we would make this the language of our prayer, Lord, do thou, for Christ's sake, lift up the light of thy countenance upon us. For his sake pardon, and through his grace help us, and delivering our souls from evil in time, be our exceeding great reward throughout eternity. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS II.

O LORD, thou art the Father of mercies, and the God of consolation, in thee will we put our trust. Thou art a refuge for us. Thou art a holy God, and we will bow before thee with reverence. Thou art a merciful and compassionate Jehovah, a reconciled Father in Christ to thy people, and with humble confidence will we approach unto thy footstool. Blessed be thy name that a way of access hath thus been opened up, and Jesus offered himself a ransom for us. Enable us, O Lord, to lay hold upon him in faith. Give us a participation in his mercy, an interest in his death, and a portion and a part in his glorious resurrection. O that the blood of Christ, which alone can justify, may cleanse us from all our sin; and that the Spirit of Christ, which alone can sanctify, may fit and prepare us for the enjoyment of thee in heaven. Were it not, Lord, that there is forgiveness with thee, we must ere now have perished in our iniquities; and instead of meeting together at this time around our family altar, we might have been reaping elsewhere the portion of the impenitent and unbelieving, thy mercy forever turned from us, and our prayer from thee. O that this very consideration may be blessed of thee for the solemnizing of our hearts, for the deepening of our convictions, and for confirming the obligations under which we lie to love, honor, and obey thee. May the Holy Spirit himself help our infirmities; and leading us onward to higher and higher degrees of advancing holiness, render us at last conformable to thine own divine image. Let the prayer of the destitute, Lord, be heard, the mourner comforted, and the saints' desire everywhere accomplished and fulfilled. Bless us, we entreat thee, as a family, and as members of that community, civil and sacred, to which we belong. May thy name be universally honored, and the sweet savor of Christ be universally diffused. Take us now, we pray, under thy preserving and protecting care. Watch over us, and all dear unto us, for good. Spare us, if it be thy blessed will, to see the light of a new day. And prepare us for whatever thou hast prepared for us, and the glory everlasting be thine own. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES III.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, we draw near unto thee this morning, through the way of thine own appointment, the Lord Jesus

Christ, and in dependence upon thy blessed Spirit. We thank thee for thy gracious protection of us during the past night, for the mercies of sleep, and rest, and refreshment, and that when we are awake we are still with thee. While we are with thee as the objects of thy providential care, may we be with thee as the children of thy love in Jesus our Redeemer. We confess, O Lord, our melancholy and guilty alienation from thee, the only living and true God, and most bountiful Father, and that our iniquities are so great, as to deserve nothing at thy hand but wrath, and that forever. Thou mightest justly leave us with all the requirements of thy law before us, but without any ability to perform them. But blessed be thy holy name, that, through our adorable Mediator, we may look for strength to discharge duty, as well as mercy to take away sin. Bestow on us, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace, whereby we may perform all the duties which thou mayest be pleased to lay upon us this day, faithfully, and in thy fear. May we count nothing too unimportant to make conscience of. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to the glory of God. As events arise, may we feel as if we saw written upon them by the finger of God, Occupy till I come. May we weep with them that weep, and rejoice with them that rejoice. May we let no opportunity pass, either of promoting the cause of Christ, or doing good to our fellow-creatures. And, O God, we pray, that while we have confidence in thy strength, we may also be quickened to the discharge of all duties, by the thought that we must one day appear in judgment, and that thy judgment is impartial, that thou wilt judge the righteous and the wicked. Let us, therefore, now judge ourselves, that we be not judged of thee. Grant, we beseech thee, that our condition as dying creatures, may keep us in a state of continual humility, as without this, we cannot value our relation to thee, nor see our need of a Saviour, nor love thee with the love of those who owe all to grace. And grant also, that the difference thou hast made between us and the beasts that perish, inasmuch as thou hast bestowed on us an immortal soul, and above all given thy Son to die for us, may induce us to seek after a better portion hereafter, and live in this world as those who are the heirs of a heavenly inheritance. And all we ask, is in the name and for the sake of thy Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS III.

O LORD God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless thee as the God of salvation and the source of consolation in Jesus Christ. There is no God but thyself, and thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders. We thank thee that thou hast manifested thy character in thy word, and law, and made thy glory to be exhibited to man in the face of thy Son Jesus

Christ. In him we behold God manifest in the flesh. And we thank thee that thy people show, by the holy lives they live, that thou art working effectually in them. As we, O Lord, have been created in the likeness of the first Adam, may we be born again in the image of the second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. May all our iniquities be blotted out through his perfect atonement. May all our means of grace, the word, sacraments, and the preaching of the gospel, be made efficacious in our experience by thine own Spirit. May our eyes be opened to the full glory of the gospel, so that we may see in it an excellency far exceeding that by which the Old Testament dispensation was distinguished. May we feel that we are without excuse and have no way of escape, if we neglect so great salvation. God forbid, that such a veil should be upon our hearts, as that which now hides, from thine ancient people, the glory of the gospel. Lord, remove that veil from them, and all blindness to thy truth from us. May Jesus be formed in us, the only hope of glory. May the reading of thy word, and the contemplation of the excellency of Jesus, be blessed by thy divine Spirit, so that the image of Christ may be distinctly impressed on our souls, and his example followed in our lives. For his sake, heal all our backslidings, receive us graciously, and love us freely. Pardon especially the sins of this day, which we have been allowed to spend. Accept our thanksgivings for all the mercies we have enjoyed during its continuance. Be with us to protect us through the night, and raise us up to the duties of another day. Bless our friends, and relations, and benefactors, and enemies. Be gracious to the poor, the afflicted in body and spirit, the bereaved, and the dying. Prepare us for death, and for meeting thee in judgment. And unto thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be everlasting praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES IV.

WE desire this morning, O our God, to approach thee through the only way whereby sinners may come to thee, thine own dearly-beloved and only-begotten Son. Thou hast given us quiet rest, and when we awoke thy hand sustained us. At the beginning of another day we seek together, as a family, thy blessing and grace. Keep us, O our Father, through this day, from all evil to our bodies, and, above all, from the contamination of sin. We avow ourselves the children of a holy God, and the sincere disciples of the holy Jesus. O may we spend this day in accordance with this honorable connection, this solemn profession. If thou art pleased this day to give us the exercise of authority, enable us to act with tenderness and Christian discretion. If we are subject to reproach or oppression, give us, O Lord, the spirit of meekness and submission, that we may thus adorn the doctrine of our Lord. Enable us to rejoice in our neighbor's prosperity instead of envying him, as we will do

if left to our own natural tendencies. Make us not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Preserve us from making the world our God. Let us not trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who is the soul's only sure, and abiding, and everlasting portion, and who has made himself over unto his people graciously in covenant by Jesus Christ. Accept of our united thanks in that thou hast set us together as a family, making us, in this manner, mutual helps, and comforts, and defences to each other. May each of us discharge the duty which is assigned us by thee, as in thy sight. May we exercise a spirit of contentment and submission to thee, in respect to the station thou hast assigned us in life. Bring us together, if it be thy will, at the close of this day, in peace and safety. May the Spirit himself dwell in us, and keep us from evil. And unto thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be praise everlasting. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS IV.

EVER-BLESSED Lord God, we thank thee at the close of another day for the mercy which has watched over us during its continuance. Thou art the preserver of men. Wherever we are, we are in thy keeping; and wert thou for a moment to withdraw thy protection, we immediately perish. And while it is so with our bodies, it is equally so with our immortal spirits. Thou impartest spiritual being, and thou keepest it alive in thy gracious love. We praise thy name for the provision thou hast made for our souls in thy word, for the spiritual manna, and the refreshing streams which are contained therein, and for the blessing we enjoy in the preaching of the gospel. O Lord, increase the number of faithful ministers of the truth in our own land, and throughout the world. Make those who are laboring in the word eminently successful. By thine own effectual grace sustain their drooping hearts. May we esteem them very highly for their work, and their Master's sake. By the success thou givest them in their work, make it apparent to all that the excellency is of thee; therefore, O Lord, shed down the influences of the Spirit upon them and their ministrations. May many, through the operation of the Spirit, be pricked in their hearts, and led to ask what they should do to be saved. As thy people, grant to us that we may grow in knowledge of the gospel, and in admiration of its excellency and suitableness to our necessities. Be pleased, O God, to take care of us through the ensuing night. Be thou with us during its silent watches. We commit ourselves to thee, our Father in Christ Jesus. We pray thee to blot out all our transgressions, more especially those of the day now past. And unto thy name in Christ we ascribe praise everlasting. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES V. X

ETERNAL and most glorious Jehovah, show us what thou art, and what we are, that we may worship reverently before thee. Thou art greatly to be praised, and thy greatness is unsearchable. But not for thy power, and holiness, and terrible majesty alone are we called to magnify thy name. For how great is thy goodness! how constant is thy care! how countless are thy benefits! For temporal provision, and for power to eat thereof; for peace by day, and for sleep by night; for all thy common mercies, we would praise thee. But O convince us that we need a nobler heritage; and make us thankful, that for man's degenerate nature salvation has been purchased and wrought out by the mediation of thy Son. On that salvation may we all lay hold, and experimentally find it to meet the amplest capacities and the deepest wants of our immortal souls. Though by nature dead in trespasses and sins, may we be made alive unto thee. Though by nature heirs of hell, may we be begotten to a lively hope—to an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. United together by the bonds of nature and society, may we also be fellow-heirs of the grace of life. We kneel together before thee here; O may we all enjoy thine endless fellowship hereafter. Meanwhile, may we diligently and devoutly attend on the public and private means of grace. May we wait at wisdom's gates; may we watch at the posts of her doors. May we keep our foot when we go to the house of God. With willing ear may we listen to thy word, and receive with meekness its authoritative truths. With earnest prayer may we ask thy pardoning, sanctifying, and consoling mercy. And O withhold not that mercy from our souls. Answer us in the joy of our hearts. Even now refresh us with thy grace. Dispose us, in entering on the business of another day, to aim at the promotion of thy cause; and grant that the events which shall this day befall us may conduce to the spiritual improvement of our souls. Let not the love of money, nor any sinful disposition, hold dominion over us. May we remember that thou, O Higher than the highest, lookest into our very hearts; and may the thought of that eternity to which time is carrying us away, make us habitually serious and devout. Pardon our sins, sanctify our souls, and answer in mercy these our unworthy prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS V.

O LORD God, whose message the gospel, and whose gift salvation is, impress upon our minds the precious truths contained in that portion of thy word which has now been read. May they prove profit-

able to us for doctrine and reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness. We have heard of the judgment-seat of Christ as a scene of terror and dismay; but, thanks be to thy name, we have also heard of an atoning Saviour, and of an incorruptible inheritance. In that Saviour may we all believe—of that inheritance may we all be heirs. If our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, may we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. In life may we have a good hope through grace of a happier life to come. By the gate of death may we enter into paradise. At the resurrection-day may our bodies be raised in glory. At the judgment-seat of Christ may we be accepted of him. Throughout eternity may we be glad with the joy of the redeemed. Grant, Father of mercies, that even now, in the believing contemplation of Jesus Christ, in the experience of thy saving grace, and in the anticipation of the glory yet to be revealed, our hearts may be comforted and cheered. But while we rejoice in thy salvation, may we also labor in thy cause. To our own souls may we give earnest heed; and may we seek the salvation of all to whom our influence can reach. May the spiritual condition of the world arouse us. May the love of Christ constrain us. May the Holy Ghost assist and prosper us. God of mercy, have mercy on the world. May it become as a field which the Lord hath blessed. Give thy ministers great success. May thy church be edified. May many souls be saved. Regard with kindness all more especially related to ourselves. Do them good in thy good pleasure. From the youngest to the oldest, from the richest to the poorest of them all, peace be on them and mercy. Accept of our thanks for thy great kindness towards us in the course of this day. Follow its events with thy blessing, and pardon its innumerable sins. Grant us refreshing sleep this night. Raise us up, if it be thy will, to-morrow morning; and give us grace to devote our continued lives to thy holy service. Answer our prayers in peace, O God, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES VI. VII.

GREAT and merciful Jehovah, hear us graciously, when we now present before thee the offering of our prayers and praises; and do thou thyself enable us to worship thee aright. We acknowledge thee as the only living and true God; as the infinitely perfect One. Nor, in the celebration of thy praises, would we be unmindful of thine encouraging attribute of love. Truly thou hast commended it towards men—thou hast commended it towards us. We deserve not a cup of cold water at thy hand; and it is a remarkable manifestation of thy mercy and forbearance, that we are not consumed. And yet we are here before thee on the morning of another day, in the continued possession, not only of many common comforts, both personal and social, but also of many inestimably precious,

religious privileges. O may we taste and see that thou art gracious, by accepting of those spiritual and everlasting blessings which thou art so ready to bestow. May we enjoy a better portion than the world can give. May we have thee for our reconciled Father, and heaven for our secured inheritance. And so, amidst all the losses, afflictions, and changes of life, may we know, in our own souls, that in heaven we have an enduring substance, and that all things work together for our good. Revive and gladden our hearts, O God, with thine exceeding great and precious promises. Enable us also, while we enjoy the comforts, to perform the duties, of the Christian life. For this purpose may thy word, as now read, be profitable to those who heard it. This day, and in the habitual course and tenor of our lives, may we exercise and cherish the virtues thus recommended and enforced. May we willingly enter the house of mourning, to comfort the heavy heart, and to receive useful lessons for our own souls. While, in the faith of Christ, the good hope of heaven, and the participation of thy common benefits, we find devout and holy satisfaction, may we, nevertheless, avoid the laughter of the fool. May we do good, as we have opportunity, to all men; yea, even like thee, O heavenly Father, to the unthankful and evil. May we be humble, patient, merciful, and meek. In the events that befall us, may we recognize thy hand; and by the discipline of providence, and the lessons of inspired truth, accompanied by the blessing of the Holy Spirit, may we become wiser and better the longer we live. Regard, with great kindness, our relatives and friends. Over them be thy benignant eye, and underneath them thine everlasting arms. Bless our President, and all in authority over us—our church, and her pastors; and our native land. Send thy gospel forth throughout the world. Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee. Answer us, we beseech thee, in peace and mercy, through the mediation of thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS VI.

HEARKEN to the voice of our cry, our King and our God—for unto thee will we pray. We deserve no blessing at thy hand. Our sins are many, and our unworthiness is great. But thou hast invited us, and Christ has died. For his sake hear the prayers in which we now invoke thy blessing on our souls. That blessing O do thou graciously bestow. Justified by faith, may we have peace with thee. May thy Holy Spirit help our infirmities, and lead us in the way everlasting. Strong in his strength, and wise in his wisdom, may we resist temptation, avoid sin, and perfect holiness in thy fear. Lead us, O Lord, in thy righteousness; make thy way straight before our face. Grant also, that, in our own experience, we may find that wisdom's ways are pleasantness, and that godliness, with contentment, is great gain. Even if severe affliction should assail us—

cleaving to thee, may we feel a holy joy. Be thou our strong habitation, to which we may continually resort. And grant that, experiencing thy saving grace ourselves, we may also seek to do good to the souls of others. May we instruct the ignorant, console the sorrowful, admonish the careless, and hold sacred fellowship with thy believing servants. May we labor to promote thy kingdom and thy cause; and may we be honored instruments of doing so. Establish upon us the work of our hands, and bless our unworthy efforts to the salvation of immortal souls. May one generation praise thy works to another, and declare thy mighty acts. May men abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and sing of thy righteousness. Bless thy church. Build up her waste places—repair her desolations. Promote within her the cause of purity and peace. May her members be active in thy service, and importunate in prayer. Have respect unto the covenant, and regard in mercy the dark places of the earth. Infuse the meekness and gentleness of Christ into the habitations of cruelty. Tell the world that there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man; and let all flesh bless thy holy name forever and ever. Defend and refresh us during the darkness and silence of another night. Watch over us for good, and not for evil. Hide thy face from the sins we have committed against thee in the course of this day. Command thy loving-kindness on our souls. And if thou art pleased to raise us up to the light and business of to-morrow, grant that we may commence it with thy praise, and spend it in thy fear. For Christ's sake, hear our prayers; and to him, with the Father and Holy Spirit, be glory and honor forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES VIII.

O LORD our God, how precious are thy thoughts towards us! How great is the sum of them! If we should count them they are more in number than the sand. When we awake we are still with thee. We have laid ourselves down to sleep, and we have awaked again this morning, because thou hast sustained us. Blessed be thy name for all thy goodness—for preserving us in life—for raising us up in health and comfort, and allowing us to read thy word, and surround thy throne of grace. O Lord, bless to us that portion of thy word we have now read together, and teach, by thy Spirit, to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. When we read in thy word of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, O may the Holy Spirit bring these truths home with power to our hearts, and teach us to know our end, and the measure of our days, how short it is. Each day we rise may we remember that it may be our last, and help us to improve it in preparing for eternity. O may we count that the long-suffering of God is salvation, and may we have grace to be up and doing while it is day. Holy Father,

we thank thee that, while we are reminded of our fleeting existence here, thou hast made known to us that work of Jesus, by which death hath been abolished. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath begotten us again to a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. We rejoice that Christ hath purchased the heavenly inheritance for his people by the shedding of his own blood, and that, as their Head and elder Brother, he hath taken possession in their name. Accept of us, O Lord, in the Beloved. May we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of all our sins, according to the riches of thy grace. We have sinned grievously against thee, and if thou wert to deal with us according to our deservings, thou wouldest swear in thy wrath that we shall never enter into thy rest. But we beseech thee, O Lord, to have mercy upon us for Jesus' sake, that we may receive the forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. And we entreat of thee, O Lord, that, since thou hast told us of a better and more enduring substance, we may be enabled, by divine grace, to live more under the power of the world that is to come. Help us to live as strangers and pilgrims on the earth. May we never look on anything in the world as our portion, but as pilgrims and sojourners, may we be always passing through it on our way to heaven, feeling thankful for all comforts we receive by the way; but ever looking for our home in our Father's house above. May we no more be conformed to the world; but being transformed in the renewing of our minds, may we set our affections on things above, where Christ sitteth on thy right hand. Quicken us, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit, and raise us from the death of sin to the life of righteousness. Sanctify us more and more every day, and make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Bless and protect us, O Lord, through this day. Keep us in thy fear, and whatsoever we do in word or deed, may we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Bless our dear friends, we pray thee, and prepare them also for a place in thy kingdom. Remember in great mercy the sons and daughters of affliction, and sanctify to them all their trials. Arise, O Lord, and plead thine own cause. Let thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Dwell, O Lord, in our hearts, and enable us to abide in Jesus by faith, and walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Hear us, O Lord our God, and accept of us: for all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS VII.

O LORD our God, we appear before thee self-condemned; for behold we are vile and what can we answer? But we hope in thy mercy through Jesus Christ. Verily it is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save

sinner, of whom we are the chief. O Lord, if thou dost mark iniquities against us we cannot stand. O deal not with us according to our merits, but according to thy great mercy in Christ Jesus. O let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, on the Son of man, whom thou hast made strong for thyself. We would plead the merits of Jesus our Saviour, and thine own promise to us in him, saying, I will remember your sins no more. O blot out all our transgressions, and be well pleased with us for the sake of him whom thou hearest always, and in whom thou art ever well pleased. We beseech thee, O Lord, that thou wouldest increase our faith, and enable us to commit our souls to Jesus, that we may be washed in his blood, and clothed in his righteousness, and sanctified by the Spirit. Sanctify us, we pray thee, through thy truth, thy word is truth. O may the Holy Spirit convince us of sin, and excite within us that godly sorrow which leadeth unto repentance, not to be repented of. May we hate sin more and more, and shun it as that evil and bitter thing which thou abhorrest. May we depart from evil and do good, and dwell for evermore. May we live henceforth not to ourselves, but to him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood. Help us to live as those who have been bought at such a price. Help us to live as those who have such glorious promises and prospects. May we have grace to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. O Lord, we commit ourselves to thy care and keeping this night. May our bodies be refreshed by sleep, and our souls by thy grace. If we awake in the night season, may we meditate on thee. If it be thy holy will, spare us to see the light of another day of the Son of man, and when we rise in the morning, may our first and best thoughts be of thee and of heavenly things. O Lord, we earnestly pray for thy blessing on our friends; may they be thy friends, and may they and we meet at last in heaven. Our afflicted brethren we commend unto thee, and O do thou, who comfortest those that are cast down, give them strength and comfort in their trials; and prepare them for a happy issue of them all. Bless all thine own people, and may their number be greatly increased throughout the world. Save thy people and bless thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up forever. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, hearken, and do; defer not for thine own sake, and for thy dear Son's sake, to whom with thee, and the Holy Spirit, we ascribe kingdom, power, and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Thirty-Sixth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CIV.

O LORD our God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and with majesty; thou coverest thyself with light, as with a garment, dwelling in light which is inaccessible and full of glory. Thou hast laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens also are the work of thy hands. Thou art worthy to receive glory, and honor, and blessing and praise: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. We adore thee, O Lord, for all thy goodness. Every morning that dawns brings us new tokens of thy love, and every evening we have to rejoice in thy faithfulness. Alas, that we are so ungrateful for thy favors! Each day we rise it becometh us to bless thee, and to praise thy name as long as we live. This morning especially we will be glad in the Lord, and our meditation of him shall be sweet. This is the day thou hast made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. The stone which the builders rejected, has become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is wondrous in our eyes. Hosannah to the Son of David! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord to save us! Hosannah in the highest. O Lord, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless thee that thou art reconciling the world to thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses; and we entreat of thee to be merciful unto us, and grant us thy favor for Jesus' sake. We have sinned and done very wickedly, and if it had not been for thy great mercy, we had long ago been consumed out of the earth. O enter not into judgment with us as we deserve, but regard us in the face of thine Anointed, and pardon our great and manifold iniquities, for the sake of him who died for us and rose again. O Lord, we bless thee for sending the promised Comforter, to take of the things that are Christ's and show them to our souls; and we earnestly entreat of thee, to grant us an abundant outpouring of the Spirit this morning. With the light of this morning, may the day-spring from on high visit us, to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Come, O blessed Spirit of grace, and breathe on the dry bones that they may live. Revive and quicken us, O God. Enlighten our minds, and enlarge and purify our hearts. Help us to enter into the spirit of this day's services, and may they be blessed for our spiritual improvement and growth in grace. May it be a time of refreshing to us from the presence of the Lord. We would, this morning, remember before thee all our brethren of mankind. May this be a great day in the church, and may many be added to it of them that are to be saved. O may many be glad this day, when it is said, Let us go to the house of the Lord, and be in all the assemblies of thy saints, and make them feel that

thy house is indeed the very gate of heaven. O be with all the afflicted who are this day to be detained from thy house of prayer. Be a little sanctuary to them in their retirement, and when kept away from the streams, may they draw, by faith, from the living fountain. Bless all our dear friends this day, and may they and we join in spirit, and be all prepared for a final meeting in the temple above. And now, O Lord, we commit ourselves to thee. Go with us to thy house, fit us for thy service, and accept of us and our worship. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CV.

O LORD God of heaven and of earth, it is a good thing for us to draw near unto thee, and to sing praises to thy holy name—to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. This evening we would renew our grateful thanksgivings for the great salvation. Thanks be unto thee, O Father of all, for thine unspeakable gift. Thanks be unto thee, O eternal Son, because though thou wast rich, thou didst for our sakes become poor. And thanks be unto thee, O blessed Spirit of grace, because thou condescendest to dwell in our sinful hearts, and dost purify us from our corruptions. Behold what manner of love is this! O the height and the depth, the length and the breadth of such love! it passeth knowledge. We beseech thee, O Lord, that we may be all partakers of those blessings which Jesus hath purchased with his blood, and is exalted to bestow. We deserve not any favor. We are altogether vile and unworthy, and merit everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and the glory of his power. But grant, O Lord, that we may be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus, that all our guilt may be washed away, and justice may see in us no iniquity. O grant that our robes may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb; and being redeemed from all sin, may we be a peculiar people, zealous of good works. May the love of Christ constrain us to live not to ourselves, but to him that died and rose again. May we be enabled to bear about with us the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifest in our mortal bodies. We thank thee, O Lord, for the promise of a better country, and O grant that every day we may be more prepared for it. Support and protect us, O Lord, while we are in this wilderness. Enable us to use thy word as a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path. Feed us daily with the hidden manna—the bread of life that cometh down from heaven; and refresh our souls with those living waters, which flow from the rock of our salvation. O Lord, we pray for thy blessing on the religious exercises of this day. Forgive the sins of which we have been guilty in waiting on thee. Pour out upon us the in-

fluences of thy Holy Spirit, and water the seed sown, and make it bring forth abundantly. Bless the whole Christian church, and extend the gospel throughout all the earth. Send, we beseech thee, a plenteous rain to refresh thine inheritance when it is weary. Revive thy work in the place where we dwell; and quicken more and more our own souls. O Lord, be the friend of our friends; be the comforter of the afflicted; be the support of the dying. O Lord, we commit ourselves to thy keeping this night. Give us the sleep of thy beloved, and awake us in the morning, if it be thy will, strengthened in body, and refreshed in spirit, and enable us to go on our way rejoicing, asking the way to Zion, with our faces thitherward. Now, unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, and our Saviour, be glory, honor, and praise, now and forever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES IX.

O LORD, thou art great, and greatly to be feared; thou art possessed of every perfection which is fitted to call forth the reverence, the admiration, and the love of thine intelligent offspring. Thou art seated upon a throne of glory; but we rejoice to know, that it is also a throne of mercy. Thou didst not leave us to perish in our sins; but didst lay our help upon one mighty to save, even upon Christ Jesus the righteous. We thank thee for all that he did and suffered, in the room of his people. We thank thee that he satisfied all the demands of law and justice; and that he is now revealed in the gospel, as the author of eternal redemption to every one that believeth. We have no merit of our own; but we plead the merits of Christ. For his sake, do thou pardon our iniquity, do thou receive us graciously, and love us freely. May we be reconciled by the blood of the cross; and enjoy communion with thee the Father, and with thy Son Christ Jesus. Make us thy temples: do thou dwell in us, and walk in us; be our God, and we shall be thy people. Adorn our souls with every grace; and may we advance from one degree of spiritual attainment to another; even till we arrive perfect, before thee in Zion. O Lord, it is not in us who walk to direct our own steps: do thou keep our feet from falling, and our eyes from tears. Guide us by thy wisdom, protect us by thy power, and bring us at last to thy heavenly kingdom. Make thy grace sufficient for us, and thy strength perfect in our weakness. May we dwell in safety under the shadow of thy wing; and rejoice in thee, the God of our salvation. Subdue, we beseech thee, the pride of our hearts, take away the carnality of our minds, and conform us to thine own image. May the mind which was in Christ, be also found in us. And, O Lord, enable us to bear in mind, that every moment is bringing us nearer to the grave; that ere long we must appear at thy solemn

tribunal, to render an account to thee, the Judge of all the earth. O make us the subjects of thy grace here, that we may enter into thy glory hereafter. Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the means of grace with which we are favored: may these be rendered effectual, in promoting the salvation of our souls. Follow, with a blessing, the preaching of the gospel, and all the religious exercises of thy holy day. Water the seed which has been sown, that it may take root in the hearts of many, and bring forth fruit to thy praise and glory. Prosper thine own cause in the world; may the Holy Spirit be poured out as in former days, that the moral wilderness may be made to rejoice, and to blossom as the rose. May thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Bless our friends and relations: give them an interest in thy favor, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Go with us this day wherever we go: may thy presence be with us and give us rest. Thou knowest our besetting sins, thou knowest the temptations to which we are exposed; O may thy holy arm be around us for good; keep us in thy fear, and in thy favor. Blot out our manifold sins: give us that which thou knowest to be needful for us: accept of our united thanks for thy care over us through the silent watches of the last night; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS VIII.

O LORD, we come unto thee, for thou art the Lord our God. We come unto thee in the name of Christ, believing that thou art nigh unto all that call upon thee in sincerity and in truth. Thou wilt fulfil the desire of them that fear thee; thou wilt hear their cry, and save them. Who would not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name; for thou only art holy? We have cause to be deeply humbled in thy presence, for we are guilty and polluted: we have forfeited every claim to thy favorable regard: we have not given to thee, the glory which is due unto thy name. It is because thou art merciful, and full of compassion, that we, the children of men, are not consumed. Let thy hand be still upon the man of thy right hand, whom thou hast made strong for thyself. See God our shield, and look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. Deal with us in Christ, that for his sake we may obtain mercy to pardon, and grace to help us in our time of need. May we be washed, and justified, and sanctified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Do thou sprinkle us with clean water, and then we shall be clean: from all our filthiness and from all our idols do thou cleanse us. Put thy Spirit within us, that we may walk in thy statutes; that we may keep thy judgments, and do them. May we be united to Christ by a living faith; and receiving daily out of his infinite fulness, may we resemble the tree planted by the rivers of water, which yieldeth fruit in season, and whose leaf shall never

fade. Be as the dew unto our souls, that we may grow even as the lily, and cast forth roots like Lebanon. Do thou establish thy throne in each of our hearts: bring every thought, and desire, into cheerful subjection to thy holy will. Save us, we beseech thee, from the hardening influence of sin; let none of us be found grieving thy Holy Spirit. May we ever be duly impressed with a sense of duty; and live as seeing thee who art invisible. O Lord, we thank thee for the mercies of the past day. Thy goodness is new to us every morning, and thy faithfulness is manifested to us every evening. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. We confess that in all things we have sinned, and come short of thy glory. We would come anew to that fountain which thou hast opened for sin and for uncleanness. Pardon, we beseech thee, the guilt which we have this day contracted: O remember us in mercy for thine own name's sake. Bless us individually: bless us as a family. May we go up through the wilderness of this world, leaning upon Christ as the Beloved of our souls; and grant that when our wanderings here below have come to a close, we may all meet at thy right hand, to sing throughout eternity the praises of thy redeeming love. O Lord, do thou remember in mercy all for whom we should plead at thy throne of grace. Bless the afflicted, and sanctify to them all the dealings of thy providence. Comfort those whom thou hast visited with bereavement; teach them to be still, and to know that thou art God. Look in mercy upon the dying; prepare them for their great change; give them an interest in Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; that when he who is their life shall appear, they also may appear with him in glory. Bless thine own people everywhere; and give success, we beseech thee, to the means employed for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world; that thy name may be known upon the earth, and thy saving health among all nations. Heavenly Father, be with us as we now retire to rest, never leave us, never forsake us; and to thy name, in Christ, be all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES X.

O LORD our God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty; thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment. Who is a God like unto thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Who can utter thy mighty acts, or show forth all thy praise? Righteous art thou, O God, when we plead with thee; and thou wilt be justified when thou speakest, and clear when thou judgest. We come into thy presence believing that thy throne of glory is also a throne of grace; that thou wilt regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. We place all our dependence for acceptance with thee on the atonement and intercession of Christ. If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who

could stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. With thee there is mercy, yea, with our God there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Let the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, purge our conscience from dead works to serve thee the living God. Say unto our souls that thou art our salvation. O be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine on us. Deliver us, also, we beseech thee, from every taint of inward pollution, and every form of outward sin. Let us be planted together in the likeness of Christ's death and resurrection, that as he was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life. O that the love of God may be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. O that Jesus Christ may be very gracious to us, as he is to all that believe, that he may be in our account the chiefest of ten thousand, and altogether lovely. And let the love of Christ toward us constrain us to live not to ourselves, but to him that died for us and rose again. We thank thee, O most merciful Father, for our preservation throughout the past night. May we enjoy thy care and protection while we are engaged in the duties of this day. May we seek to glorify thee in all that we do, and say, and think. May we have a constant, and simple, and sensible dependence on Christ for grace and strength. Whatever we do, in word or in deed, may we do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. And may our walk and conversation be such, as that we shall shine as lights in the world, and recommend the gospel to all with whom we associate. May we this day make progress in every excellence of temper, and disposition, and conduct, in everything which qualifies for thy service on the earth, and for thy presence and worship in heaven. May our path resemble that of the sun, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. These our confessions, and thanksgivings, and prayers, we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be undivided and eternal glory. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS IX.

OUR Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Pour upon us, we beseech thee, the Spirit of grace and supplications. We know not what, or how to ask, because of the darkness that is in us. We are ignorant equally of our own wants, and of the unsearchable riches of Christ. We have become insensible both to the one and to the other, through the searing and deadening influence of sin. Gracious Father, we acknowledge the number and heinousness of our sins. Iniquities continually prevail against us, so that each successive thought, and word, and action, is a manifest violation of thy law. While we have disregarded our obligations to thy service, as thy creatures, we have also broken our vows and

engagements as thy professing people. We have neither been deterred by thine anger, nor drawn by thy love, from the indulgence of pride, and envy, and deceit, and covetousness, and vain-glory, and the various depraved inclinations of our hearts. We have not been careful to shun the very appearance of evil in our conversation and conduct. We have not acted from a desire to glorify thy name, to extend the spiritual kingdom of Christ, and to promote the temporal and eternal welfare of our fellow-men. Of these sins we acknowledge the guilt, and entreat the forgiveness. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness. According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. O for Christ's sake wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. And deliver us, we pray thee, not only from guilt, but also from pollution; not only from punishment, but also from disobedience. Give us grace that we may serve thee in holiness and righteousness in all the relations of life; that we may continually honor and obey thee; that we may glorify thee in our bodies and in our spirits which are thine. May we be temples of the Holy Ghost, and exhibit in our walk and conversation examples of his sanctifying power. May we, in our whole characters, be beautified with holiness. Bless abundantly, we beseech thee, all for whom we ought to pray. Let our friends and relatives enjoy thy friendship, and be related to thee as sons and daughters. May the afflicted and the dying experience thy sympathy and forgiveness. Increase greatly the number and the spirituality of thy people. Let thy Spirit be poured upon thy church like floods upon the dry ground, so that sinners may be enlightened and converted, and believers quickened and edified. Arise, O God of our salvation, and plead thine own cause. Accept of our grateful thanks for the blessings of the day which has just come to a close. Extend to us thy care and protection during the watches of the night. Spread over us thy covering wings, till our wanderings in this world shall have terminated, and then receive us into everlasting habitations. Forgive the sins of this approach to thy throne; and do for us more than we can either ask or think of, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—ECCLESIASTES XI. XII.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we would offer thee our united thanks that we have all been suffered to see the light of the morning—that we have been called up again to active duty, and the enjoyment of wonted privileges—that we have had an opportunity of reading that word which testifies of Him who is the light of the world. Father, we are not worthy of any of these benefits, for we have every one trespassed against thee, and it becomes us to say, if thou shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who should stand? Blessed be thy name that thou hast not dealt with us according to our de-

serts, for thou didst deliver up thy Son unto the death for us all, and of thine abundant mercy hast begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In his name we now draw near, through his intercession may we be heard, by his blood may our iniquities be taken away, and as his brethren may we find acceptance in thy sight. O that we may obtain mercy to pardon, and grace to help us, peace in believing, and joy in the Holy Ghost. And we entreat, heavenly Father, that the truths and the counsels of that portion of scripture which we have just perused, may by thy Spirit be impressed upon our hearts. May we be enabled to do good in our day and generation, to give out of what we possess for the bodily and spiritual advantage of our fellow-creatures, especially those of the household of faith, to give disinterestedly, liberally, and whensoever we have an opportunity. Save us from folly, and prepare us for the day of our death, and for the resurrection of life. Make those who are old among us ready for that happy state in which they shall renew their youth. Lead those who are young to serve thee ere the evil days of age overtake them. Let thy words be acceptable to us, and by them may we be admonished, and while we feel that all here is vanity, and that on earth we have no continuing city, may we be taught to fear thee and keep thy commandments, that our flesh may at length rest in the dust in hope, and our souls may be found watching when the master cometh. Bless not only us, but all for whom we ought to pray—thy people in the whole earth, thy church in our land, our relatives, our neighbors, our friends, our enemies. Give us this day our daily bread. Aid us in every duty. Deliver us from every evil. Let a sense of thy presence abide with us, and a savor of goodness be about us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS X.

O LORD, we would pour out our souls in thanksgiving for the watchful care which thou hast taken of us this day, for the bread we have eaten, the raiment we have worn, the health of our bodies, the soundness of our faculties, and for the assistance in duty, the deliverance from evils, and the measures of grace which thou hast granted to us. O Lord, when we look back upon the occupations of the day, we see that we have not remembered, and feared, and glorified thee, as always faithful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. We would not glory or commend ourselves before thee, but implore forgiveness through that blood of the Redeemer which cleanseth from all sin; we would ask for the grace of repentance, and desire that being justified by faith we may have peace with God, through the Lord Jesus Christ. Do thou render profitable for our instruction in righteousness those words and that example of thine apostle which we have just now been called to consider. Let us never be led away from the simplicity of the faith by false disci-

ples or false doctrine; let us not measure ourselves by ourselves, or compare ourselves with the foolish standards of religious character which men may set up; let our thoughts be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and let us strive to overcome the opponents of the truth by the persuasions of thy word, and with the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Enable us to ascribe all the glory of any good that is done in us or done by us, unto the Lord. Give us that faith which shall appear in growing fruitfulness, that love which shall evermore constrain us, that consistency which shall commend the gospel to others, that humility which shall make us walk softly, that zeal which shall animate us like Paul, with a holy boldness in behalf of the cause of Christ. We pray for the speedy overthrow of all deceitful systems of religion, and the universal spread of that which is true. Take unto thee thy great power and reign in our hearts, in our dwelling, in our parish and neighborhood, in our church, in our land, in all regions of the earth, so that at the name of Jesus, among Jews and Gentiles, every knee may bow. Preserve this night our bodies from danger, and our souls from temptation. When we are falling asleep may we commit ourselves to thee; when we awake may we be still with thee. Do thou always keep us as our watchful Father, and may we have in us thy Spirit witnessing with our spirits that we are thy children, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH I.

O GOD, we thank thee that at sundry times, and in divers manners, thou didst speak in ages past unto the fathers by the prophets; we thank thee, that the word addressed to them hath, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, been recorded in the scriptures for our edification; and that thou hast, in these last days, put away types and shadows, and spoken unto us plainly by thine own Son. As our blessed Lord took upon him the seed of Abraham, we pray that we may be enabled to give earnest heed to the messages addressed by wise men of old, to the people of whom, according to the flesh, Christ came; and that, by the exhortations, threats, and promises delivered to the ancient church, we may be instructed, aroused, and comforted. Save us from provoking thee to anger as the Jews so often did; save us from such evils as came down upon them for their corruptions, and which we doubt not are our due if thou shouldst enter into judgment with us; save us from placing our dependence on an outward and empty profession of religion, as if by the multitude of sacrifices we were to be justified. Conduct us to a true, a pure, a spiritual religion; to that faith which, while it looks up to the cross of Christ, is yet not alone, but bringeth forth much fruit. In our natural state there is indeed no soundness in us, from the sole of the foot even unto the head; and in our state of grace, are there not many wounds requiring to be closed and bound up? Let us

approach with grateful confidence, and wash in the fountain open for uncleanness, so that our sins which are scarlet, may be as snow; at the same time, let us be so cleansed, by the washing of regeneration, that we may cease from the perverse practice of evil, that we may do good according to the spirit of the gospel; that we may approve ourselves willing, and obedient, and growing in a relish for such satisfactions as shall be the portion of those who shall eat the good of the land of perfect rest. We pray thee to look down mercifully upon this family, and to purify us as a peculiar people, zealous of good works. We thank thee, that, in the watches of the night, no evil has assailed us, and that, with the opening day, we have again opened our eyes upon the light. How fair are the heavens stretched out above us, and the landscape spread around us! We would magnify thee as the Maker, Preserver, and Master of all, and implore strength that we may glorify thee amidst thy works, as ever seeing the being who is invisible. Bless our relatives, friends, and fellow-Christians, enable us to live at peace with all men, guide us in the several duties and relations of life. Provide for the supply of our wants, and let the sentiment of our hearts this day be, Thy will be done. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord, for our Mediator's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS XI.

O LORD, again would we lift up the voice of praise and thanksgiving. In thy wondrous condescension thou dost visit us; in thy unwearied goodness thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over us; in thy abundant grace, thou hast commanded us in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make our request known unto thee. We would thankfully comply with thy command, seeing that we may have boldness to enter into thy holy presence by the blood of Jesus; and we would beseech thee to forgive the trespasses of the bygone day, and to blot out our iniquities as a thick cloud. Lord, we lament the evil that is still unsubdued within us, the law in the members that is still warring against the law of the mind, the remains of corruption cleaving to us, the weakness of our Christian principle as compared with the pattern of Paul, and the sacrifices we so often make to satan, the world and the flesh. O hear our cry for more grace, that we may strive against sin, that we resist the devil, that we may grow more consistent as we grow daily older, that the hues of heaven may be more vividly reflected from our characters, that we may be filled with love, and joy, and peace, and perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. We thank thee for pastors and ordinances given unto us for our edification, and we pray that we may never be led astray from the pure gospel through the subtlety of the serpent; or, through the sounding professions of false teachers, be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Enable us to follow that which is good, to copy the noble zeal of the apostle of the Gentiles, to think less of our own ease, to study meekness, patience, and perseverance in well-doing; to view ourselves as soldiers of Christ, and to face labor, pain, poverty, and reproach if needful, for his sake. We are frail and insufficient for these things; but we look up to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and entreat thee to gird on us the Christian armor, and to give us strength, that we may stand fast in the faith, and fight the good fight till we enter into rest. Father, let us ever say, As for us and our house, we will serve the Lord. In all our ways let us acknowledge thee; and in all our intercourse and dealings with relatives, friends, and neighbors, let our inquiry be, not, how would our own likings and tempers lead us; but, what doth the Lord command us? Spare us, if it please thee, to assemble here for thy praise on a new day; but if we should never all meet again to worship at thy footstool below, may we meet in a brighter world, to engage in a more perfect service; and now, glory be to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH II.

O LORD, it is good for us to draw near unto thee, for they that are far from thee must perish. In thy favor is life, and thy loving-kindness is better than life. May we esteem it our highest privilege to be permitted to come before thee to ask an interest in thy gracious regard. We acknowledge our unworthiness of the least of thy mercies, for we are guilty and polluted creatures. We have forgotten thee our Maker, and have lightly esteemed thee, the Rock of our salvation. We have had respect unto lying vanities, and have been lovers of pleasure more than lovers of thee. It is because thy compassions fail not, that we have not ere now been visited with everlasting destruction from thy presence, and from the glory of thy power. Our only hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, whom thou hast set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood. We bless thee for him as thy unspeakable gift, and pray that we may be made partakers of all his benefits. May he be made of thee unto each of us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. May he be, in each of us, the hope of glory. And while we desire to rejoice in the freeness and fulness of the grace that is treasured up in him, may we feel the obligation under which the manifestations of his grace has laid us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in the world. While we entreat thee, for the sake of the blessed Redeemer, to give us the pardon of every past transgression, may the Holy Spirit so take possession of our hearts, that we may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works, and be advancing daily in a meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. We thank thee for the

means of grace with which thou hast favored us. May we be enabled to improve; and may the blessings which we enjoy be imparted to the people of every land, till at last all shall know thee from the least unto the greatest. May Christ the Lord be speedily revealed as a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Israel; and may every scriptural means employed for the conversion of the nations be blessed by thee. We praise thee for all the kindness with which thou art daily visiting us; for food and raiment; for health of body and soundness of mind; for protection by night as well as by day. We desire to begin this day with thee, and to commit ourselves to thy guidance in our going out and coming in. With ourselves we would remember before thee those in whom we are specially interested, and our fellow-men everywhere, whether in health or sickness, in prosperity or adversity. May we never forget what we owe to thee, the giver of all good. May we be kept in the love of thee our God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And all that we ask is for his sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS XII.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the King eternal, immortal, and invisible. All things were made by thee, and by the word of thy power they are upheld. We bless thee for the fearful and wonderful manner in which thou hast formed us, and for the care thou hast taken of us, and the kindness thou hast shown us since we entered into life. Every day, as it closes over our heads, reminds us of the bounties of thy providence, and of the gratitude which we owe to thee the Giver of all good. But especially, as we call to mind the glorious hopes which the gospel has revealed, would we magnify thy name for thine amazing interposition in our redemption from sin and misery. But we plead the finished work of our once crucified, but now risen, exalted, and glorified Mediator, and beseech thee, for his sake, to come over the multitude of our provocations, and to hide thy face from our sins. Grant us deliverance, alike from the power, the guilt, and the punishment of sin. Give us a comfortable sense of an interest in Christ. Give us the Holy Spirit, to enlighten our understandings, to purify our hearts, and to lead us into all truth; so that, as thy redeemed people, we may be devoted to thy will, and ever ready to show forth thy praise. May we have such evidence of a good work having been begun within us, and of its progress towards maturity, that the close of each successive day may be associated in our minds with the conviction that our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Forgive the many trespasses we have this day committed, and grant that the thoughts of our daily shortcomings may stimulate us to increasing watchfulness, and to a livelier sense of our need of supplies out of the fulness that is treasured up in Christ. And now that we

desire to commit ourselves to thy care and protection throughout the night, be pleased to keep us from all evil, and to prepare us for all that may be awaiting us in the course of thy providence. With ourselves we would make mention of all whom it becomes us to remember at the footstool of thy throne, whether in health or sickness, in prosperity or adversity, whether life or death be the portion in store for them. And especially would we pray for the spiritual well-being of our fellow-men, entreating thee to cause the light of thy truth to shine in every land, till at last the whole earth shall be filled with the Redeemer's glory. Bless the efforts that are now being made to evangelize the nations. Be gracious to that portion of thy church planted amongst ourselves. Grant that a spirit of division may cease, and let all who name the name of Christ depart from iniquity. Graciously hear and answer these our prayers, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH III. IV.

O LORD, we adore thee as the King of kings, the blessed and only Potentate. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. The nations of the earth are thine, and thou enlargest them, and straitenest them again, as it seemeth good in thy sight. While we are reminded in thy word of the judgment which thou executest against nations because of abounding iniquity, may we feel, and be enabled from the heart to acknowledge, that we are sinners before thee, and that, as transgressors of thy law, we merit thy wrath. By nature we are unclean, and from our youth up we have been guilty of innumerable actual offences against thee. If we would attempt to justify ourselves in thy sight, our conscience would instantly condemn us. But blessed be thy name, thou hast not given us over to destruction, but art waiting to be gracious, and inviting us to come unto thee that we may have life. We thank thee that thou hast provided for us an all-sufficient Saviour, who, by his own blood, hath obtained eternal redemption for us; and who, having borne our iniquities in his own body on a tree, now liveth at thy right hand to plead our cause, and to make intercession for us. We thank thee for the gift of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, to apply to us effectually the benefits of the Redeemer's purchase. Grant, we beseech thee, that we may be enabled to receive and rest upon Christ as he is freely offered to us in the gospel, and that we may have that faith in him which worketh by love, which purifieth the heart, and which overcometh the world. And while we desire to be filled with godly sorrow for sin, may we have grace given us to die unto it daily, and to live unto righteousness, mortifying every corrupt affection and perfecting holiness in thy fear. Clothe us with the garments of salvation. Deliver us from the deceitful influence of lying vanities; and let our conversa-

tion in all respects be as it becometh the gospel which we profess to have received. May thy Spirit lead us into all truth, and keep us from every false and wicked way. May the happy period speedily arrive, when the nations of the earth shall no longer set themselves in opposition to the claims of thy anointed One, but submit to his authority, and enjoy the blessings of his gospel; and may thy tabernacle be established in this land while the sun and moon endure. Be gracious to all of us now before thee, and to all for whom it becometh us to pray. Have compassion on the poor, the afflicted, and the dying. Accept our thanks for all thy mercies, for thy goodness in having preserved us during the night, and brought us to see the light of this day. Continue to watch over us, and keep us from all evil. Forgive our every sin; and hear us for Christ our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—2 CORINTHIANS XIII.

At the close of another day we desire, O Lord, to present ourselves at the footstool of thy throne; confessing our sins and imploring forgiveness. We beseech thee, for the Redeemer's sake, to pardon our iniquity, though it be very great, and to wash our polluted souls in the precious fountain of his all-cleansing blood. May every blessing which he hath purchased for his people be savingly applied to us by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit; and, under his teaching and guidance, may we be led into all truth, and be kept from every false and wicked way. We thank thee for every past experience we have had of thy goodness and grace, and look unto thee for a continued supply of all that thou knowest to be needful for our progress in a life of faith and holiness. If it be thy blessed will, may we be enabled to mount up with wings as eagles. Or, should so high a privilege be withheld, may it be given to us to run without becoming weary, or at least to walk without becoming faint. Help us to be ever pressing forward, animated by the consideration of thy promise, that, as the day of thy people is, so their strength shall be; and that thou wilt never fail nor forsake any who put their trust in thee. Blessed be thy name for the many mercies of the past day, and for the goodness and mercy which have followed us all the days of our life. Thou hast loaded us with benefits; thou hast furnished our table; thou hast made our cup to run over. May a law of gratitude be written in our hearts; that, as we are sustained by thy providence, and enriched with thy grace, it may ever be our desire to live to thy glory. May the blessings which we enjoy be shared in by others, and not only by those with whom the ties of blood, or friendship, or obligation have connected us, but by all men according as thou knowest their circumstances to be. May those who are in weakness or pain, or who feel thy hand to be heavy upon them, be strengthened, supported, and comforted; and may the consolations of the gospel be vouchsafed to the dying. Bless the inter-

ests of thy church everywhere; and hasten the blessed period when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Grant that each successive day may bear witness to the progress of the Redeemer's cause in the world. And now that thou hast brought us to the close of this day, we implore the protection of thy gracious hand during the watches of the night. If it be thy will that we should see the light of the morning, fit us for the discharge of the several duties assigned to us. May we be thine while we are here, and thine in glory hereafter. And all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

Thirty-Seventh Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CVI.

O LORD our God, great art thou, great is thy power, and of thy wisdom there is no end; we will praise thee, O Lord, we will give thanks unto thee, for thou art good, and thy mercy endureth forever. Who can utter thy mighty acts, who can show forth all thy praise? Remember us, O Lord, this morning, with the favor which thou bearest to thy people; visit us with thy salvation, that we may see the good of thy chosen, that we may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, and that we may glory with thine inheritance. O Lord, we would rejoice and be glad in that triumph of our Saviour over death and the grave, which this morning brings so closely into our view. And we would pray that as he arose from the dead, we may be enabled to arise from a death of sin to a life of holiness. May that same divine and Almighty Spirit, that raised our Saviour from the dead, descend into our hearts, and animate us with the power of a divine life, and enable us to live to thy praise and glory. Hitherto, O Lord, we have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly; like them, we have provoked thy displeasure, and grieved thy Holy Spirit by the most daring rebellion, and the basest ingratitude. We have been, like them, often insensible to the grandeur of thy power, and to all the attractive charms of thy mercy. O enter not, we pray thee, into judgment with us, for in thy sight no flesh living can be justified; cast us not away from thy presence. Remember thy covenant, and save us for thy name's sake. Cause the mighty power of thy grace to be known in our salvation. See, God, our shield, look upon us in the face of thine Anointed. Through the merits and intercession of our great High Priest, have mercy upon us; grant us mercy to pardon, and grace to help us in every time of need. Sanctify us

by thy Spirit of truth. Rebuke us not in thy hot displeasure. When thou visitest us with affliction, be pleased to bless and sanctify it for good. May we not despise the chastening of the Lord, neither be weary of thy correction. Inspire us, O Lord, with gratitude for the mercies of the past night and this morning; prepare us for the services of thy sanctuary; enable us to worship thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Bless and strengthen thy servants in the ministry. Give them, this day, a word in season; enable them to preach thy word with fidelity and earnestness, for the glory of thy name, and the good of thy people. Enable thy people to hear the truth with faith and affection. Extend the knowledge of thy grace this day. May thy kingdom come. May the people praise thee, may all the people praise thee. Gather thy people from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise. Send us, O Lord, an answer to our prayers, for the sake of thy well-beloved Son, in whose name we would say, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting; and in whose words we would continue praying, Our Father who art in heaven, &c.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CVII. 1-20.

MOST gracious and blessed God, we would give thanks to thee this night, for thou art good, and most worthy to be loved; thy mercy endureth forever. We would call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to praise and bless thy holy name, for all the blessings of another Christian sabbath; and for all the means of grace that we enjoy. But, O Lord, we are not sufficient of ourselves for this service. May thy Spirit assist our infirmities; and may our offerings of gratitude and praise be perfumed by the incense of a Saviour's merits, and be acceptable in thy sight. We would adore and praise thee as the God of providence, and the Father of mercies. Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. In thee thy people find grace equal to their necessities, and sufficient for their wants. Thou hast delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. Blessed be he that came in the name of the Lord to save us. O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy. O Lord, may a sense of thy goodness, both in providence and grace, fill our hearts with love to thee, and lead us to devote ourselves to thy praise and glory. May the love of Christ constrain us, to live not unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. May we feel that we are not our own, but that we are bought with a price the most precious; and are bound by every tie to glorify God in our bodies and spirits which are his. May the services of this day be blessed and made effectual for this

purpose, for we have to lament that we have hitherto been ungrateful recipients of thy mercy, and unprofitable servants. We have been too insensible to thy loving-kindness towards us, and too unmindful of our obligations to thee. We have not loved, served, and glorified thee as we ought to have done. We have not devoted our time and our talents to thy glory, even on this thy holy day; we have been too much taken up about the things of time, to the neglect of God, and the things that belong to our peace. Pardon, O Lord, our unworthiness, and enable us, in time to come, to love thee more and serve thee better. May thy Spirit be poured out from on high upon us this night, as a family, and as individuals. May he seal upon our hearts the instructions we have this day received from thy word, that our faith may be strengthened, our hopes confirmed, and our love enlivened; and that thy name may be glorified. Bless all with whom we have this day joined in thy services. Bless the word preached throughout the world. May the Lord God make known to all men his salvation. Be the God of our friends, make them objects of thy love and mercy, remember them with that favor which thou bearest to thy people. O thou who art the keeper of Israel, watch over us, and let no evil befall us during the hours of rest. Hear us, O Lord, and accept of us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH V. VI.

HOLY, holy, holy art thou, O Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of thy glory. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, thou chargest even thine angels with folly. They worship thee with their faces veiled, and the heavens are not clean in thy sight; we, then, the sinful beings of the dust, can approach thy thrice holy presence, only in the name, and trusting to the merits, of him whom thou hearest always, and in whom thou art always well pleased. For his sake, be pleased, we beseech thee, to receive us graciously, and love us freely. We praise thee for the gospel privileges we so richly enjoy, for the ministration of word and ordinances, for the means of grace, and the hopes of glory; and we pray that thy Spirit may lead us to a right and becoming improvement of them. Enable us to remember, that to whomsoever much is given, of them will much be required. O Lord, we have to confess that we have indeed been unprofitable servants, barren and unfruitful in thy service; other lords have had dominion over us; we have been serving the world and the flesh more than the living God. We are indeed undone, a people of unclean lips, and we dwell among a people of unclean lips. If thou wert to enter into judgment with us, we could not answer thee for one of a thousand of our sins and provocations. But we rejoice that with thee there is mercy and forgiveness. To whom can we go but unto thee, thou alone hast the words of eternal life. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to thy loving-kindness. In the midst

of thy threatened judgments against sin, remember mercy for the sake of Christ. Cleanse us from our sins in the fountain of his blood, purge our consciences from dead works to serve the living God. Put thy Spirit within us; may he take of the things of Christ and show them to us. May we, by the eye of faith, behold thy glory as revealed in the face of Jesus Christ; and may we be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Deliver us, O Lord, from being carnally minded, which is death. Give us to be spiritually minded, which is life and peace. For this purpose, may thy blessing rest upon the services of the past sabbath. May the influence of them remain on our hearts during this day and during the week. May the word of God then read and preached, prove to us the savor of life unto life. May thy grace now prepare each one of us for all thy will respecting us this day. Accept, O Lord, of our united thanksgivings for the repose and peace of the past night, and for the blessings of this morning; be with us during the day, strengthening us for every duty, aiding us in every trial, defending us from every danger, delivering us from all temptation, and enabling us to glorify thee in all that we do; and all that we ask is in the name of the Lord Jesus, our advocate. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—GALATIANS I.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we would adore and praise thee this night, as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and we would draw near to thee by faith, and our spirits would hold communion with thee, as our reconciled Father in him. We have, indeed, offended thee times and ways without number, we are by nature children of wrath, enemies to God in our minds by wicked works; but behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. We give thee, O God, all praise and glory for this assurance of thy love; we bless thee that when we were without hope, and without help, thine own eternal and well-beloved Son gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God our Father; and we rejoice to think that thou hast raised him from the dead, appointed him head over all things to his church, and exalted him a Prince and a Saviour to give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. May we, indeed, be children of God by faith in Jesus Christ; may we be called by his grace, and separated from a world lying in wickedness by his Spirit for his service. May we be justified freely by his grace, and have peace with God. May we know the truth as it is in Jesus, and may the truth make us free. May we enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God. May we hold fast the form of sound words which we have heard in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. Be pleased, O God, to reveal thy Son in us, and give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowl

edge of Jesus Christ; forbid that any of us should come short by unbelief. Lord, help our unbelief; increase our faith, make it a vital, active, and constraining principle of holiness in our hearts; bring us more under the influence of faith, that our lives may be spent more to thy glory—more to the honor of our Christian profession, and thus more to our own peace and comfort. Forbid, O Lord, that any of us should deceive ourselves, by a form of godliness, without the power of it; forbid that any of us should rest satisfied with knowing the first elements of religion; but may we all, assisted by thy grace, press forward to the blessed experience and full enjoyment of thy service. Be pleased, O God, to hear our prayers in behalf of the sick, the afflicted, and the dying; be a present help in every time of need. For our friends and brethren, we would also put up our supplications before thee, O Father of mercies. May grace and peace, from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, be to all men. May all people be blessed in Jesus, and may all call him blessed. With grateful hearts for all thy goodness to us individually, and as a family, we would this evening commend ourselves to the protection of him who neither slumbers nor sleeps. May we be raised up in the morning, in health, and in soundness of mind, ready and willing to devote our preserved lives and refreshed powers to the service and glory of our God. May our services at this time be acceptable in thy sight, O our God, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer—to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be all glory forever and ever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH XI. XII.

O LORD our God, we desire, on this morning of a new day, to present ourselves before thee, and to bless thee for thy continued goodness. We laid ourselves down and slept; we have awaked, for the Lord sustained us. And we are this morning reminded of our manifold obligations unto thee, and of the strong claims which thou hast upon our gratitude, our love and our obedience. We adore thee as the Maker of all things, as the righteous Governor of the universe, as the God of grace and of salvation. Thou madest man upright, and adornedst him with thine own image, and gavest him dominion over thy creatures. But, alas! man being in innocence, abode not therein. The crown fell from his head; the gold became dim, and the most fine gold was changed. We mourn over this fall, by which we have been despoiled of the divine image, and have become guilty and miserable creatures. And we mourn over it because, in consequence thereof, we are become depraved, and are alienated in heart and mind from God, and are ever prone to sin. But we bless thy name, that though thou wast angry with us, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst us. We rejoice in that we are privileged to say, Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become

my salvation. And we pray that we may each of us have a personal interest in the blessings of this salvation, and that, having received the doctrine of Christ, and found it to be light and life to our souls, we may each of us be enabled this day, and through the whole of our life, to live as it becomes those whom God hath delivered from the power of darkness, and hath translated into the kingdom of his dear Son. O Lord, let thy kingdom come, and let thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Hasten the glory of the latter day, even the day when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. And as the promise has been given that Christ shall have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession, O let this promise be speedily accomplished, and let Christ be acknowledged in all lands, and let his doctrine be received by all people. Let the time come when the outcasts of Israel shall be assembled, and the dispersed of Judah shall be gathered together from the four corners of the earth; when Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim; when the fulness of the Gentiles shall be come in, and all Israel shall be saved; and when all nations, drawing water with joy out of the wells of salvation, shall say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Our prayers, O God, are before thee. We ask all in the name and for the sake of Christ. And unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God, we ascribe all praise and glory. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—GALATIANS II.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, we desire to lift up our souls unto thee, and to beseech of thee to pour out upon us the Spirit of grace and of supplications. Unto thee, O God, we desire to give thanks, for thou hast created us, and hast brought us up hitherto. We are the work of thy hand, the sheep of thy pasture, the objects of thy favor. We will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, and make known thy faithfulness to all generations, for thou alone art merciful and gracious, thy mercy shall be built up forever, and thy faithfulness shall be established in the heavens. We, O Lord, are in ourselves destitute and helpless. All our righteousness is as filthy rags in thy sight, and all our strength, weakness and vanity. And there is no man that can give a ransom for his soul, or that can obtain acceptance with God by any righteousness of his own. But we rejoice to know, that as by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified in the sight of God, the righteousness of Christ is all-meritorious to the sinner's justification. And we pray that, through the teaching of the Holy Spirit, we may attain to right views of the way of acceptance and of peace with God; and that, from a deep sense of our guilt and misery, we may be enabled to flee by faith to Christ, and thus be justified through him. And being justified by the faith

of Christ, may we beware lest we walk in unrighteousness, and lest we live as those who frustrate thy grace, or as those who go about to establish a righteousness of their own. Save us, O God, from that fear of man which bringeth a snare. Let us never be tempted to dissemble; but may we be enabled to walk uprightly, and to be vigilant and humble, as knowing that we are compassed with infirmity, and exposed to manifold temptations. And may we be zealous for thy truth, seeking to evidence its excellence and power by that charity which is the bond of perfectness, and by a life of holy devotedness to God. May we, through the law, be dead to the law, that we may live to thee. And may each one of us, knowing his calling of God, and exercising an implicit reliance upon Christ, be able to say, I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. We thank thee, O God, for the mercies of the past day; and we pray that for Christ's sake thou wouldst freely pardon the sins of which we have been guilty in the course of it, and give us grace to live more holily for the time to come. We desire to commit ourselves to thy care during this night. We pray that our sleep may be quiet and refreshing. And if thou art pleased to bring us to the light of a new day, may we find increased delight in thy service, and a growing desire after entire conformity to thy image. Hear us, O Lord, and do for us above all that we can ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH XXV. XXVI.

O LORD our God, thou art great, and greatly to be feared and to be revered. Thou art righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. Thou art good also, and greatly to be loved; thy tender mercies are over all thy works. We desire to come unto thee this morning under a deep impression of our unworthiness, and our insufficiency, and our guilt. And in waiting upon thee we would take encouragement from knowing that thou regardest the prayer of the destitute, and that thou art ready to succor all that call upon thy name. Let the desire of our souls be towards thee, O God, and to the remembrance of thee, for thou art the centre of all perfection, and the source of all blessedness, and the giver of every good and every perfect gift. May we stand in awe of thy judgments. May we rely upon thy promises. May we hope in thy mercy. May we rejoice in thy salvation. Let the remembrance of thy goodness towards us in providence, and especially in grace, quicken our gratitude and love to thee, lead us to confide in thee continually, and make us willing to go forward in the path of commanded duty, whether that lead to doing or to suffering. May the time past of our life suffice to have wrought the will of the flesh, and to have

walked after the course of this world. And though hitherto other lords besides thee have had dominion over us, and led us captive at their pleasure, we would now desire to say, By thee only will we make mention of thy name. By thy grace and strength alone we are delivered from the power of all our enemies. In thee alone we find a sure and unfailing refuge; therefore will we celebrate thy praise, and trust in thee forever. O save us, we pray thee, from a spirit of rebelliousness against thy holy will, and make us humble, and contented, and patient. Deliver us from the evil that is in the world around us, and from the wickedness of our own hearts; and may thy Holy Spirit dwell within us, and be unto us a Spirit of adoption, and of sanctification, and of prayer, that thus we may know our calling of God, and may serve thee acceptably and joyfully all the days of our life. O Lord, let all the nations praise thee. Let all people enjoy the rich provision which thou hast made in the gospel of thy Son. Let the veil that is yet spread over the nations be withdrawn; and let him who is the light, and the life, and the consolation of all people, speedily appear to all the ends of the earth. Suit the supplies of thy grace to the varying circumstances of all whom we ought to bear upon our minds before thee. And may each of us be enabled to live this day and henceforth in thy fear and to thy glory. And all that we ask is in the name and through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—GALATIANS III.

O LORD, enable us this evening to come before thee, deeply impressed with a sense of thy majesty and glory, and give us grace that we may present unto thee a spiritual sacrifice acceptable unto God through Jesus Christ. We are indeed most unworthy to approach unto thee: for we are less than the least of all thy mercies, and are become estranged and defiled by sin. But we bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, in him, hath been pleased to draw nigh to us in mercy, and to make known to us the method of reconciliation and of peace. And we pray that we may be made sensible of the greatness of our privilege in having received the revelation of thy will, regarding the means of acceptance with thee, and of being made like unto thee. Give us, O God, a lively apprehension of our misery by nature as lying under the curse of a broken law, and of the impossibility of being justified in thy sight by our own righteousness, or by any works of the law. And seeing that thy law shows us to be transgressors, and to lie under a sentence of condemnation, may we be effectually moved by thy Spirit to make application unto Christ, that through faith in him we may be accepted as righteous, and may be delivered from condemnation. May we look to Jesus as having been evidently set forth crucified among us, and as having thus redeemed us from the curse of the law, and

purchased for us the gift of eternal life. May his cross be that alone in which we glory; and may nothing be allowed to draw off our attention from it, or to prevail with us to hope for either peace or purity independently of it. Work in us, we pray thee, that faith which was accounted unto Abraham for righteousness, and which is the great means of attaining unto all other spiritual blessings, that thus we may be the children of Abraham, and may be blessed with him. And having been baptized into Christ, may we study to put on Christ, and to resemble him wholly in his disposition and character, and thus to evidence that we are indeed the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, and heirs according to the promise, and growing in meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. We thank thee, O God, for all thy goodness to us during the past day, and ever since we came into the world. Be with us, we earnestly beseech thee, through this night. Let thine everlasting arms be around us; and let thy good Spirit uphold and protect us. May the close of every day remind us that we are advancing to the close of life, and that the night cometh in which no man can work. And may this recollection move us to quicken our diligence in all the work of holy living, and constrain us to live under the power of the world to come. Be thou the God of our friends and relatives wherever they are, and under whatever circumstances they may be placed. Sanctify to them all thy dealings with them; and give them all an interest in Christ, and prepare them for the enjoyment of thyself in heaven. Compassionate, we beseech thee, the sorrowful, the afflicted, and the dying; and suit the supplies of thy grace to their varying need. Prepare us all for everything thou hast prepared for us, and receive us at last into thy glory. And all that we ask is for the sake of Christ, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory forever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH XXXII.

WE worship, O God, and adore thee who art the high and lofty One, whose name is Holy. Cherubim and seraphim are thy servants. Thy throne is exalted above all height, and thy name above all blessing and praise. All fulness is thine. Grant unto us this morning, we most humbly beseech thee, the Spirit of grace and supplication, that through Jesus Christ we may come with acceptance into thy presence, and offer up the desires of our heart for things agreeable unto thy holy will. We rejoice that thou hast raised up our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ from the dead, and hast given him to be head over all things unto the church, which is his body, the fulness of him who filleth all in all. The hearts of all men are in thy hand, and as the rivers of water thou canst turn them which way soever thou wilt; render the princes and the rulers of this world submissive unto the Prince of the kings of the earth, that

justice may roll down like waters, and judgment like a mighty stream. Bless with all temporal and eternal blessings the chief magistrate of our land. Establish this land in righteousness, and surround it with wise and Christian advisers. Be gracious to the nation. Look down from heaven, O God, behold and visit with loving-kindness thy church which thou hast planted amongst us. In every season of rebuke, of doubt, and of perplexity, acknowledge, confirm, and direct thy people. Arm us, O Lord, with the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Strengthen us with all might, by thy Spirit, in the inner man, so that if called upon, we may resist even unto blood, striving against sin. Enable us to walk by faith and not by sight, to look unto Jesus, and to have respect, not unto the light affliction which is but for a moment, but unto that which it worketh out for us, even the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. O that the wickedness of the wicked were brought to an end! Confound their devices, O God, and frustrate their purposes, but convert and save their souls. Pour out thy Holy Spirit upon us, O Lord. We bless thy name for what our ears have heard, and our eyes have seen, and our hearts have experienced, of this thy goodness. Revive thy work in the midst of the years. Revive it in the church and congregation to which we belong. Bless, O God, thy ministering servant, and give success to his labors amongst us. Let thy Spirit descend upon all flesh, till, before the light and life of the gospel, falsehood and all ungodliness shall forever flee away, and faith and holiness, assurance and peace universally prevail. We thank thee for having protected us during the night which is passed; be thou with us throughout this day. Deliver us from evil, from satan, and from sin. Give us bread to eat, and raiment to put on. Honor us by making us workers together with thee in the cause of truth and righteousness. Wash all our guiltiness away in the blood of Immanuel. And grant us an answer of peace unto these our humble supplications, for all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, who, together with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, liveth and reigneth, for evermore. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—GALATIANS IV.

O God, who art the hearer and answerer of prayer, unto thee should all flesh come. Grant us boldness, we humbly beseech thee, to enter by the blood of Jesus into the holiest, by the new and living way which thou hast consecrated for us through the rent veil of the Redeemer's flesh. Deliver us, we pray thee, from all carnality, pride, and self-sufficiency. Set before us the length and breadth, the height and depth, and spirituality of thy law. Teach us that no righteousness but that which is perfect, can meet with acceptance before thee. Unite us, therefore, unto Christ, that we may be found

in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, even the righteousness which is of God by faith. Remove away from us all servile fear and all mercenariness of soul, and enable us to serve thee not in the oldness of the letter, but in the newness of the Spirit. Shed in our hearts the love of thee by the Holy Ghost, and convince us that, in Christ Jesus, thou art a God of pardons, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and of great kindness. Enable us to look with a living faith unto him who died for our sins and rose again for our justification. Teach us that our completeness is in Christ, that he fulfilled the whole law for them that believe, and suffered the punishment due to their sins; and that therefore there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. Adopt us, O God, into thy family. Be thou unto us a father, and may we be children unto thee. Give us the hearts and feelings of children. Send forth the Spirit of thy Son into our hearts whereby we shall cry Abba, Father, unto thee. O that he would make intercession for us according to thy holy will. May he strengthen, establish, and confirm our hearts with grace, in the faith and obedience of the truth. Open the scriptures unto us, O Lord, that we may understand thy law. Give us spiritual discernment in all things. Shine in upon our minds, O God, with the light of thy countenance, reconciled in Jesus Christ, that satan may never succeed in leading us astray from the faith, and hopes, and holiness of the gospel. And now, most gracious God and Father, we beseech and implore thee to forgive the sins of which we have this day been guilty. Blot them out, O Lord, and cast them behind thy back into the depths of the seas of the blood of Immanuel, that they never more may be remembered against us. Let whatever work thy Holy Spirit may have wrought upon our hearts this day be carried on to completion. We bless thee for all the goodness which thou hast made to pass before us, and we desire to lie down in quietness and to close our eyes in sleep with our hearts in a state of peaceful reconciliation to thy holy will, through Jesus Christ, our all-prevailing intercessor. And now to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, be glory, and honor, and power, everlasting. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH XL.

THOU art God thyself alone, O Lord, and there is none beside thee: from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. Thy thoughts unto uswards have been, from all eternity, thoughts of peace. At sundry times, and in divers manners, thou foretoldst unto the fathers, by the prophets, that thou wouldst send forth into this world a great Deliverer, one mighty to save. And when the fulness of time was come, thou sentest forth thy well-beloved Son to suffer and to die for us, who had forfeited our souls in rebellion against thy laws.

O the height and the depth, and the length and the breadth of the love of God in Christ Jesus; it passeth all understanding. O that thy Holy Spirit would take our hearts of stone away, and give unto us hearts of flesh, susceptible of being affected, impressed, and moulded by the love of God. Who can save us but thee? What can cleanse our guilt away but the blood of thy Son? Who can create within us clean hearts, or renew right spirits within us, but the Holy Ghost? Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one living and true God, we come to thee. Cast us not out of thy sight. Thou wast our fathers' God, be thou the God of their children. Cleanse us, ever-merciful Saviour, in thy blood which cleanseth from all sin. Pardon our sin, most gracious Father, for it is great. Ever-blessed Spirit of all grace, we desire to yield up ourselves unto thee. Take us and sanctify us wholly, in spirit, soul, and body; and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will put thee in remembrance, ever-faithful God, of thy promise, to give unto thy Son the nations for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. Satan has now been, O Lord, for a long time the God of this world. Cast him out. Let not other lords than Jesus Christ continue to have dominion over man. Let thy church, O God, stand forth in the might of thy Holy Spirit. Let her put on her beautiful garments of the righteousness of Christ. Let her nowhere lean upon an arm of flesh, but everywhere upon him who loved her and gave himself for her. Lead her forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners. Let her lift up her voice and proclaim that her Saviour is God; that behold he cometh with a strong hand, that his arm shall rule for him, that his reward is with him, and his work before him. Let not disappointment fret, nor opposition wear out thy people; but let them remember that the cause is God's, and that in due time they shall reap if they faint not. And now, most gracious Father, we beseech thee to be with us throughout this day. Let not business engross our hearts, nor pleasure seduce our affections from thee. Let thy Holy Spirit continually remind us, that thou, God, seest us. Let us never forget the love which thou bearest unto us in Christ. In eating, and in drinking, and in whatsoever we do, enable us to do all unto thy glory. Defend us from evil, and deliver us from sin. Forgive all our trespasses. And hear these our humble supplications, for all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—GALATIANS V.

THOU art, O Lord, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through whom we humbly crave, this evening, access into thy presence. We bless thy name that he hath finished transgression, made an end to sin, and brought in everlasting righteous-

ness. We rejoice in believing that, by his own blood, he hath entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for all who come unto thee through him. We flee from our sins and from our own righteousness, unto the blood and obedience of Jesus Christ. Wash us, O God, in his blood, that we may be clean, and clothe us in his righteousness, that we may be acceptable in thy sight. Deliver us, O Lord, from all reliance on ourselves. Guard us against even the slightest encroachments of a legal spirit. May we be taught our Christian liberty, by the Holy Spirit, and enabled by him to stand fast therein, and never again to come under a yoke of bondage to rites or ceremonies, or to the justifying and condemning power of the law. May we clearly see and deeply feel our utter inability of our own selves, even to think a thought as we ought to think it. Let us, therefore, cast the salvation of our souls upon Christ. We plead the sufferings of Christ: for their sake, forgive our sins. We plead his righteousness before thee: look upon us in him, see us in the face of thine Anointed, in whom thou beholdest no iniquity in Jacob, nor discoverest perversity in Israel. Guard us, O God, against the delusions of our wicked and deceitful hearts. Let us not turn the grace of God into licentiousness. May we never use our liberty for an occasion to the flesh. Let thy law be a light unto our feet, and a lamp unto our path. Enable us to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit, and to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. May we not forget that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost; and that whosoever defileth the temple of God, him will God destroy. Implant love in our hearts to one another. As much as in us lieth, may we live peaceably with all men. Let thy people be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. Close up, O God, divisions, and put an end to schisms and separations among those that are called by thy name. We bless thee, heavenly Father, for all thy loving-kindness to us during this day; and we commit ourselves and all that belong to us unto thy care and keeping throughout this night. Watch over us and ours, O thou who never slumberest nor sleepest, and let not evil come near our dwelling. Open our eyes in health and peace upon the light of another morning. Continue to be gracious unto us through life, support us at death, and at last receive us into thy glory. For all that we ask is for the sake of thy well-beloved Son, our only Lord and Saviour; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, our God and the God of our fathers, be salvation, and blessing, and praise, from this time hence forth, even for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH XLI.

O most holy and most gracious God, we prostrate ourselves before thee this morning, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thou art the one living and true God. Besides thee there is none else

and idols are an abomination before thee. Help us, Lord, to glorify thy name, because of thy mercy. Our fathers sat in darkness, and at this day, we, their children, might have been bowing down to the workmanship of our own hands; but in thy mercy, thou hast dispelled our darkness, and turned us from idols, to serve thee the living God. O Lord, help us to put away all the idols of our heart and imagination, and worship thee alone in spirit and truth. Make us witnesses for thee. May we, in all lowliness of mind, and in dependence on thy grace, avouch thee to be our God, and make it manifest in our whole conduct, that thou art our God, and that we are thy people. We would lament that we have been in time past so faithless as witnesses for thee, and we confess that as thou didst deal fearfully, in the way of chastisement, with thine ancient people, so now mightest thou deal fearfully with us. O Lord, in the humble confession of our evil desert, we would cast ourselves on thy forgiving grace. Be pleased to glorify the power of Christ's atoning blood, and thine own sovereign love, in blotting out all our transgressions. Receive us graciously and love us freely. Make us thy children by faith in Jesus, that we may enjoy the privileges and the blessings promised to Abraham thy friend. Do thou strengthen and help, yea, uphold us with the right hand of thy righteousness. Make us more than conquerors over the world, and every enemy of our souls, and amid all our contests with self and the world, the flesh and the devil, be thou our strength; amidst all the weariness and painfulness of our present wilderness condition, when poor and needy we seek water and find none, and our tongue faileth for thirst, forsake us not, O God of Israel, but make our wilderness pools of water; refresh our souls, and at length bring us safely to thy holy hill, even to thine own dwelling-place, that we may forever rest in peace. Overthrow, we beseech thee, the idolatry of the world. Let the cross of Christ have free course and be glorified. Do thou, according to thine own holy decree, utterly abolish idols, and make the name of Jesus glorious in all lands. O let our own land share richly in this blessing, and be established as a praise in the whole earth. And remember poor perishing Israel. Return, in mercy, to the seed of Jacob. Reveal Jesus to them in thy love, and turn their hearts to thee. Accept of our thanksgiving for the mercies of the night, and this morning. Keep our going out and our coming in this day. Guide us in all our ways, sanctify us fully, and the glory shall be thine in Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—GALATIANS VI.

ALMIGHTY Father, at the close of another day we would bow humbly before thee in the name of Jesus. Blessed be thy name that in him thou art still gracious to us, to sinners. Thou art indeed our Shepherd. Thou restorest our souls. Thou alone healest our back-

slidings, when thou mightest justly leave us to wander forever. O Lord, help us to deal kindly with our erring brethren. Give us a spirit of meekness, and humbling remembrance of our past failings, that we may pity our fellow-disciples who fall into transgressions, and strive to recover them from the snare of the devil. O Lord, impress our hearts with the arousing truth, that we are still in the body, still surrounded with manifold temptations, still liable to fall into sin. Be thou our strength in the day of trial. Help us, we earnestly beseech thee, to overcome the flesh. Let us not deceive ourselves, as if we could mock and deceive thee, with external professions of regard, while our hearts are not right before thee. O God, give us grace to sow to the Spirit. Implant thine own truth in our hearts, that blessed seed of the word, which produces fruit, both in heart and life, unto holiness, that our end may be life everlasting; and grant that, as we overcome by the blood of the cross and this word of Christ's testimony, so our own glorying may be not in men or in ourselves, but in the cross of Christ. Abounding in all holiness of heart and love to thee, may we also abound in love to our brethren. Help us to do good to the household of faith. Let us seek the peace and prosperity of Zion, and loving her, may we prosper. In due season let us reap, and support us that we faint not. O grant that every dream of self-righteousness may be dispelled from our hearts, and Christ alone exalted there; and grant that speedily the world may be converted to him. Let thy arm scatter all opposition to his righteous truth, and raise up and send forth to Jews and Gentiles multitudes of faithful ministers and missionaries, who shall spend and be spent for Christ, till his name be great from the rising to the going down of the sun. May we bear about with us in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifest in our mortal flesh. And thus daily living in Christ, may we die in Christ, and be eternally thine. Blot out in his blood all the offences of the day. Refresh our bodies with rest, our souls with the peace which passeth all understanding, and the glory shall be thine forever in Christ. Amen.



Thirty-Eighth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CVII. 21-43.

FATHER of mercies, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we prostrate ourselves on this the morning of thine own day, at the footstool of thy throne of grace, in the name of Jesus. Help us to praise thee for thy goodness, for thy wonderful works to us the chil-

dren of men. Blessed be thy name for all the merciful deliverances vouchsafed to us hitherto, and for all the privileges with which we are this morning surrounded. Thou hast often delivered our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death, otherwise we would not now be here thanking thee for thy mercy, and waiting the hour which summons us to thy house of prayer. O Lord, help us to feel our obligations, and to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. Bless, for this purpose, the portion of thy word on which we have this morning meditated; may it deepen our conviction, that thou the Most High rulest in the affairs of men and the nations; and may it encourage us to acknowledge thee in all our ways, that thou mayest direct our steps. O lead us into thy court with joy. May we see thee there, as thy people have, in times past, seen thy goings in thy sanctuary. All-gracious God, manifest thyself to us in the forgiveness of all our sins, and the complete renewal of our hearts. Show us the Saviour, and quicken us to pant after his image. Satisfy our longing souls with the provision of Zion. Bless that provision to us, and to all our fellow-worshippers. Make thy worship our delight. Assist thy ministering and missionary servants. May thy Holy Spirit give them a mouth and wisdom, adding, this day, many to the redeemed of the Lord, to give thanks for the mercy that endureth forever. May these be gathered from all lands, but especially may they abound in our own.—And number, we beseech thee, among them, and that speedily, the seed of Jacob. May the Deliverer come out of Zion, and turn away ungodliness from Abraham's seed. Bless our rulers with thy fear; make the sceptre of the land a sceptre of righteousness. O bring the wickedness of the wicked to an end, but establish thou the just, that the righteous may see and rejoice, and all iniquity stop her mouth. Be thou ever gracious to the storm-tossed mariner, and hear his cry in the hour of his distress; and even as thou bringest him to his desired haven, so grant, that, when the voyage of our life is come to a close, we may rest within the veil, where now we desire to cast our anchor, and whither our forerunner is already entered. Hear us graciously, and answer us in peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CVIII.

O GOD, we draw near to thee once more this day in the name of Jesus. How precious is a day spent in thy courts. O Lord, we have this day heard anew of thy love in Jesus. We would fix our hearts on thee, and thy saving mercy in the blood of the cross. O Lord, thy mercy is great above the heavens, and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds. Thou hast magnified thy wonderful works of grace toward us miserable sinners, and challenged the affections of our inmost souls. O forbid that we should withhold our heart from thee.

O that we could open to him that stands at the door and knocks. Constrain us by thy love to admit the Saviour. Awaken us to yield our whole selves to thy service, and suffer us not to rest satisfied with anything short of spiritual life, and that in the measure of the stature of perfect men in Christ Jesus. We bless thee, that thou hast promised a glorious and lasting victory to thy people, over all their spiritual foes. We beseech thee to bestow that victory upon us. Give us help, we implore thee, in this our warfare, for vain is the help of man.—We have no strength, our strength is but weakness, even as our righteousness is, in thy sight, but filthy rags. Do thou, then, strengthen and uphold us, with the right hand of thy righteousness. Stretch out thy hand against the wrath of our enemies, and may thy right hand save us. Perfect that which concerneth us, and bring us to thy holy hill, even to thy dwelling-place. We bless thee for a sabbath of rest in our pilgrimage state. We would enjoy it constantly as a pledge of the eternal rest above. O Lord, blot out the sins thou hast discerned in our services this day, and forgive the iniquities of our holy things, and answer our prayers for spiritual mercy, not according to their meanness and want of heart, but according to thy riches in glory by Jesus Christ. Follow, with thy blessing, the word preached, that it may profit them who heard it. O let not this sabbath-day pass without many tokens to the efficacy of thy word, and the power of thy grace. Build up thy own people in the faith, and so bless the word that it may arouse sinners, and convert them to Christ. O blessed God, grant that the Son of David may speedily mete out the earth as his own, and establish his rule throughout the whole world. Give to him the throne of his Father over the house of Israel. • O turn the heart of Abraham's seed to thee, and the heart of all nations to thy own dear Son. Let his enemies be scattered before the light of thy countenance, and his church be established in the whole earth. Into thy hands do we commit this great work; carry it on both in our hearts, and among our fellow-worshippers, in our own land, and in all lands, till all the ends of the earth turn unto the Lord, and all kindreds of the nations do thee homage. May the good Lord hasten it in his time. Into thy hands we commend our souls for the coming night. Keep us in peace, refresh us with the sleep of thy beloved, and raise us on the morning of a new day, renewed for thy service. And all we implore is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH XLII.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, at the footstool of thy throne would we this morning bow ourselves, rendering unto thee that homage which is so due from the rational creatures which thou hast formed. Thou art exalted indeed above all blessing and praise. Thou art King of kings, and Lord of lords, the great, and wise, and

only potentate. Thousands of thousands of holy spirits surround thy throne, saying, Great and marvellous are all thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true art thou in all thy ways, thou King of saints. The most exalted of the heavenly intelligences veil their faces and their feet with their wings in the presence of the Eternal, while they cry out, Halleluia, halleluia, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. With what reverence, then, should the inhabitants of the dust approach thee, crying, Unclean, unclean; Lord, be merciful to us, miserable sinners! And yet, O Lord, polluted though we be, thou hast not shut us out from thy presence; yea, thou hast given us a Mediator, and invited us to approach thee; and coming to thee in his name, we may say, The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice, and let the multitudes of the isles be glad. The Lord reigneth, and he reigneth in mercy and in faithfulness; mercy is over all his works. O how wonderfully has thy mercy been manifested to the children of men! When all had sinned, when all had gone astray like lost sheep, when Lebanon was not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereon for a sin-offering, thou didst say, Redeem from going down to destruction, for I have found a ransom. Behold my servant whom I uphold, mine elect in whom my soul delighteth. I have called him in righteousness; I have given him for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles, to open the blind eyes, and to bring them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house. And blessed be thy name, this promise which thou gavest thou didst graciously fulfil, for thou didst set forth thy Son as a propitiation for sin, to die the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God. O draw us by the bands of love, and by the cords of a man. Draw us, and we will run after thee. May we say, Lord, we are wholly thine. What wilt thou have us to do? What dost thou require us to suffer for thy name's sake? We are thy servants, truly we are thy servants, thou hast loosed our bands. O may this be not only the language of our lips, but the prayer of our heart, and the desire of our souls. May our lives be a song of gratitude and praise to him who loved us, and gave himself for us. May the love of Christ constrain us to live unto him through whose goodness and mercy we live. May we bear about with us the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of the blessed Saviour may be manifested in our mortal bodies. Hasten the happy time when the wilderness shall blossom, when the inhabitant of the rock shall sing, when the most distant isles shall wait for thy law, and when thine ancient people the Jews shall be brought in, with the fulness of the Gentile nations. Hear these our prayers, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—EPHESIANS I.

WE would this evening bow ourselves before the Lord who made us; and may we have grace that we may approach thee acceptably, with reverence and with godly fear, for thou art greatly to be feared

in the assemblies of thy saints, and to be had in reverence by all who are about thee. Thou art exalted above our highest thoughts. Who by searching can find out God? Who can find out the Almighty unto perfection? But when the world by wisdom knew not God, thou didst deign to reveal thyself not only as glorious in holiness, but as the Lord merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, through the atoning blood of the Redeemer. Yea, thou didst so love the world as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but should have everlasting life. May we believe unto the saving of our souls. May the love of Christ constrain us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that he died for all, that they who live should not henceforth live to themselves, but to him who died for them and rose again. May we all be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of the purchased possession, to the praise of his glory. May the work of the Spirit on our hearts give us richer pledges of future felicity, and more delightful earnestings of the happiness of heaven. May we more frequently meditate on our corrupt state by nature, that we may be more convinced of our need of that spiritual Physician, who alone can heal the deadly plague of our hearts. May we more frequently meditate on the merited doom of rebellion, that we may be more thankful that, according to the riches of thy grace, we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins, through the blood of Christ. And may we never forget that salvation originates in this glorious grace, that when enabled to lead lives of faith and godliness, we may ascribe unto thee the glory and the praise. Lead us to more frequent meditation on the blessedness of the saints in light, who, with songs of rejoicing, surround thy throne, that we may be ready to say, O that we had the wings of a dove, that we might fly away and be at rest, Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly; even so come, Lord Jesus. Go forth with the preaching of thy holy word throughout the earth, till the wilderness blossom and the desert rejoice. Bless this family and all our friends. Our hearts' desire and prayer is, that they and we may be saved. Hear the prayers we now raise to thee, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH L. LI.

ALMIGHTY Creator of all things, with reverence and contrition we would present ourselves before thee. How shall we, who are sinful dust and ashes, present ourselves before the Lord, who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity without abhorrence? We have sinned, and what can we answer? we have sold ourselves for naught, and our iniquities, as the wind, have carried us away. We have encompassed ourselves with sparks; we have walked in the light of our own fire, and in the sparks of our own kindling; and hadst thou left

us to ourselves, our light would have been put out in utter darkness, and our fire would have been the unquenchable burnings of hell. But O Lord, when our iniquities had brought us low ; when we were laden with pollution ; when we deserved to lie down in everlasting sorrow ; when thou sawest us in our blood, thou didst behold us with compassion ; yea, when we were in our blood, thou didst say unto us, Live, and the time was a time of love. Thou didst seal thy covenant of grace with redeeming blood. Thou didst send a Saviour. He gave his back to the smiters, and his cheeks to them that plucked off the hair, and hid not his face from shame and spitting. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities ; he died that we might live. O may we, then, love and fear the Lord and his goodness, and obey the voice of the heavenly Saviour. May we know righteousness, and walk in the light of the Lord's countenance. And if at any time we walk in darkness and see no light, may we trust in the Lord, and stay ourselves on the most high God. When we remember the years of the right hand of the Most High, in difficulties and dangers we will say, Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O arm of the Lord ; awake as in the ancient days, the generation of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon ? Art thou not it that hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep ; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over ? O Lord, may we be under thy kind care and keeping ; covered as in the hollow of thy hand ; guarded as the apple of thine eye. O remember us in the multitude of thy tender mercies. May we avail ourselves of our gospel privileges, and go on from strength to strength, till every one of us appear in Zion. O Lord, bless the church of Christ on earth. For Zion's sake we will not hold our peace, and for Jerusalem's sake we will not rest, till the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. Say at last, Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion, put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, that thou mayest be for a name and a praise, and that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of God. Bless us and all whom we are bound to have upon our spirits. Hear the prayers we now raise to thee for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—EPHESIANS II.

O THOU who dwellest in the heavens, King eternal, immortal, and invisible, with reverence and humility would we this evening bow ourselves before thee. Thou dwellest in light inaccessible and full of glory. Myriads of holy spirits are around thy throne, delighting to celebrate thy praise, and rejoicing to do thy will. What is man that thou shouldst be mindful of him, or the children of men that thou shouldst deign to visit them. Thou didst indeed create man very good, and didst delight in the work of thy hands ; but man being in

honor abode not; he rebelled against the God who made him; he became sinful himself, and entailed corruption and woe on all his posterity. We had all gone astray like lost sheep; we had all walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins, sent his Son to quicken us, that we who were without Christ, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world, might be reconciled in the body of Christ's flesh, through death; and though once far off, might be made nigh by the blood of Christ, having, through him, access by the Holy Spirit unto the Father, that we may be presented holy, and unblamable, and unreprouvable in his sight, with exceeding joy. O may it be our joyful experience that Christ has become our peace, and that by the cross he has slain the enmity, and has enabled us to come unto God as children to a Father, who is both able and willing to help us. Meditating much on the wonders of redeeming love, may we say, We are not our own, but bought with a price, not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; therefore will we glorify thee in our bodies and in our spirits, as we are wholly thine. May we remember that by grace we are saved through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast; and may we show that, as believers, we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, that we should walk therein; and may our lives be a song of gratitude and praise to him who loved us, and gave himself for us. Bless our brethren of mankind. Have mercy on those who are yet fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind. May they be led to see that the end of these things is death; and when roused to a sense of their guilt and their danger, they cry, What shall we do to be saved? lead them to him who came to seek and to save that which was lost. Lead them to flee to him as the stronghold; and may they find that he is a hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the storm. Bless this family and household, and all our friends. May we all be of the household of God, built on the foundation of the prophets and apostles, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone. Hear our prayers, and grant an answer in peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH LII. LIII.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we thine unworthy creatures, thy rebellious children, would this morning bow before thee, to thank and to bless thy holy name for all thy goodness and mercy towards us. Thou causest the outgoings of the morning and evening to re-

joice over us; thou fillest our mouths with food and our hearts with gladness, and by the visitation of thy Spirit are our lives preserved. We bless thee especially for that rich provision which thou hast made for our spiritual wants in the gospel of thy Son, in that we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace. We rejoice that thou didst so love our world as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Herein indeed is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and gave his Son to die for us. O may we ever join trembling with our mirth, knowing this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men love the darkness rather than the light. But may the consideration of thy great love to us in the gift of thy Son constrain us to live no longer to ourselves, but to him that died for us and rose again. Truly, all we like sheep had gone astray, we had turned every one to his own way, and thou didst lay on him the iniquity of us all. We bless thee that the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and that with his stripes we are healed. Grant that whilst we contemplate the sufferings of the Son of God, endured on our behalf, our hearts may be melted into contrition and love. May we see in these sufferings the exceeding demerit of sin, and be led to hate it perfectly, and to shun every appearance of evil. May we learn in the price paid for our redemption, something of the worth of the soul and the weight of eternity, that we may be led with truly penitent hearts and humbled minds to lay hold on the hope set before us in the gospel, that Christ may be formed in our hearts the hope of glory; that in us he may see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; that being delivered out of the hand of all our spiritual enemies, we may serve thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives. And, O Lord our God, whilst we desire an interest in all the blessings of salvation for ourselves, we pray that thy saving health may be made known to all the nations of the earth. Extend the bounds of our Redeemer's kingdom. Build up the waste places in Zion. Increase the number of faithful ministers, and grant them an abundant supply of the spirit of wisdom and love. Make bare thy holy arm, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. We thank thee, O God, for thy care of us last night, and for the health and comforts of this morning. Give us this day our daily bread, preserve us from all evil, keep us back from all sin, and lead us in the way everlasting. In mercy visit the sick and the dying, comfort the mourner, be gracious to all who are dear to us, and bless all for whom we should pray. And now unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and unto the Father and ever-blessed Spirit, be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—EPHESIANS III.

O LORD our God, we adore thee as the Father of our spirits and the framer of our bodies, the source of all our blessings and the foundation of all our hopes. We rejoice that ever thou didst proclaim thy name to be the Lord, the Lord God merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. We bless thee that thou didst lay our help upon One who is mighty, and that when the fulness of the time was come thou didst send forth thy Son, made under the law, to redeem us from its curse. This is indeed a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, even the chief. We bless thee for all that he did, and taught, and suffered, while he remained upon earth, for the words of salvation which flowed from his lips, and for the atoning sacrifice which he offered for sin by his death upon the cross. We thank thee for the gracious commission given to his apostles, to preach the gospel to every creature; that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, unto all who believe. We thank thee that to us has the word of this salvation come. O grant that we may feel all its transforming energy and power upon our hearts and lives; that being delivered from all ignorance, and error, and sin, we may be unto the Lord for a peculiar people, zealous of good works; that having in us the hope which the gospel inspires, we may rise superior to all the trials and temptations of life, and purify ourselves even as thou art pure. For this cause would we bow the knee unto thee the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that thou didst grant us, according to thy riches in glory, to be strengthened with all might by thy Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, that being rooted and grounded in love we may be able to comprehend with all saints the breadth and length, and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, and to be filled with the fulness of God. Give us much of that faith which worketh by love, purifieth the heart, and overcometh the world, that we may walk by faith and not by sight, that the lives which we now lead in the flesh may be by the faith of the Son of God. Shed abroad abundantly thy love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, and teach us to love thee, the Lord our God, supremely, and each other with true hearts fervently. Clothe us with humility, and give us the meek and quiet spirit which in thy sight is of great price. We thank thee, heavenly Father, for thy care of us during the past day, for the supply of our wants, and the protection of thy kind providence. We commit ourselves this night to thy care and keeping. Spread the curtain of thy providence around our dwelling, and let no evil come nigh to us. Bless our family and dwell in it. May each member of it be a subject of thy renewing grace, and an heir of life eternal. Bless all our friends. Supply the wants of thine own people. Dwell in the families of all who call upon thy name,

and greatly increase the number of them that fear thee. And now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH LIV. LV.

FATHER of peace and God of love, it well becomes us to show forth thy praises every morning, and to speak of thy faithfulness every night. For thou art good unto all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. It is because thy good hand has been upon us that we have been preserved even until now. Thou hast kept our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. O enable us to walk before thee in the land of the living. Teach us to feel our dependence on thee for life, and breath, and all things, to know the obligations under which we lie to serve thee, and ever to remember our accountableness unto thee our judge. O Lord, we confess our sins and shortcomings in thy sight; thou knowest all our sins, all our foolishness is before thee. O deal not with us as we have sinned against thee; reward us not according to our deserts, but in the midst of deserved wrath remember us in mercy. Show us thy mercy and grant us thy salvation, love us with that love which thou bearest unto thine own, and let no iniquity ever have dominion over us. May our sins be all washed away in the blood of atonement, and may we have the new heart and the right spirit given to us, that henceforth we may no more go back, but keep thy precepts continually. Too long, alas! have we spent our money for that which was not bread, and labored for that which satisfied not. We have set our affections upon the creature more than upon thee the Creator, but now would we desire to return unto thee, now would we forsake all our sinful ways and unrighteous thoughts. Do thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Pour out upon us a spirit of grace and of supplication, that we may seek thy face with our whole heart. Work in us that repentance which needeth not to be repented of, that henceforth we may keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and shun every appearance of evil. Yea, work in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power, that our fruit may be unto holiness, and the end life everlasting. Lord, make us to know our end, and the measure of our days what it is, that we may know how frail we are. Give us to believe more truly the reality of things unseen and eternal, to feel their importance more deeply, and to live more constantly under their influence. Enable us to lead the life of the righteous, that our last end may be as his. We thank thee for thy care of us during the last night; we have lain down and slept, and have again awakened, because thine arm sustained us. Preserve us this day in thy fear, guide us in the path of duty, of purity, and of peace. Bless the people among whom we

dwell ; preside over us, and prosper thine own cause in the midst of us. Let thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven. Take away all our sins, and hear our prayers, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—EPHESIANS IV

O LORD our God, to whom can we go but unto thee, thou hast the words of eternal life, thou art the God of salvation ? Thou art good, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works ; we are the living monuments of thy sparing mercy. For iniquities we confess prevail against us, do thou blot out all our transgressions. Hide thy face from our sins, and give us to know the blessedness of the man whom thou chooseth and causest to approach unto thee. We bless thee that thou hast no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, but rather that all should turn unto thee and live. Turn us, O Lord, and we shall be turned ; draw us, and we shall run after thee ; heal us, and we shall be healed ; save thou us, and we shall be saved. For the sake of thy dear Son who died for our sins, do thou heal all our backslidings, receive us graciously and love us freely. We rejoice that he died, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God. We bless thee for the hopes and promises of the gospel. We rejoice that life and immortality have now clearly been brought to light, that thou hast made known to us the way everlasting. O teach and enable us to improve diligently the means of grace with which we are so highly favored, remembering to whom much is given, of them much shall be required. May we be enabled to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called ; to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour by a life and conversation becoming the gospel ; so to conduct ourselves at all times and in all circumstances, that we may not grieve thy Holy Spirit, by whom we are sealed unto the day of redemption. God of all grace, do thou shed down thy Holy Spirit upon our hearts in rich abundance, to inspire us with a hatred of everything that is displeasing to thee, and to form us to a love of universal goodness, and a desire to make continual advancements in it. For this end, bless to us those religious services in which as a family we engage. May we wait upon thee in them with prepared hearts, that we may be acceptable worshippers in thy sight. Enable us to hear thy word with due attention, open our minds to all the instructions which we receive from it, and bow our hearts to humble obedience. By thy grace may we ever be enabled to show mercy and speak truth, to do righteousness and to follow peace. Fill us with all kind and charitable dispositions towards each other, and let the peace of God rule in our hearts. May we ever keep our tongue from evil and our lips from speaking guile. And may the very God of peace himself sanctify us wholly ; and we pray God that our whole spirit, and soul, and body, may be pre-

served blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus. We pray for the advancement of the gospel in the world, and for the conversion of Jews and Gentiles. May those places of the earth which are still the abodes of horrid cruelty, be speedily visited with the peace-giving, life-inspiring influences of the Sun of righteousness. And, O God of love and mercy, do thou spread among Christians of every profession a spirit of forbearance, and candor, and love, that all may endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Be favorable to our beloved land. Bless our friends and give them an interest in the salvation of Christ. Look in mercy upon the sick, and sanctify affliction to them. Visit the dying to save them, and teach us to remember the shortness of time and the awful importance of eternity. Bless the young with teachable minds and sanctified hearts, that they may remember thee their Creator. Watch over us this night. May we lie down impressed with a sense of thy goodness, may we awake in thy fear, enjoying thy favor, and rise with renewed strength to discharge the duties of life and with more confirmed resolutions to run the way of thy commandments. Hear our prayer, forgive our sins, sanctify our nature and save our souls, for our Redeemer's sake, thy Son. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH LIX.

O LORD, the great and dreadful God, keeping covenant and mercy to them that love thee, and to them that keep thy commandments, we are ashamed and blush to lift up our faces before thee, for we have sinned and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and thy judgments. Our sins, alas, have separated us from thy favor, and exposed us to thy dreadful wrath. And we are so blind and infatuated as to love our iniquities and go after our idols, forsaking thee the living God, the fountain of living waters, the source of all spiritual life, and light, and joy. We have all gone astray like lost sheep, we have turned aside every one unto his own way, and the way of peace we have not known. And our sins are deeply aggravated by the peculiar favor thou hast shown us. We have abused our high privileges, we have despised our own mercies, we have neglected the warning voice of thy word, we have resisted the striving of thy Spirit with our hearts. Surely our wound is incurable, we have refused to be healed. Yet to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. Thy hand is not shortened that it cannot save. But we have reason to lament our own perverseness in cleaving to our own sins, and our own aversion to apply for the precious blessings of thy grace. O turn us therefore and we shall be turned. Grant us a deep and affecting sense of our own depravity and blindness, of our own guilt and folly in being so backward to avail ourselves of the new and living way by

which we have access to thy favor. Turn us effectually both from the love and practice of iniquity. And cherish in our hearts every holy principle and devout affection, that we may serve thee the Lord our God in newness of life, imitating the perfect and blessed example of our divine Redeemer. But we have reason to bewail before thee, not only our own personal corruption and guilt, but our barren and unfruitful condition as a church of Christ, and our woful degeneracy as a Christian nation. We have provoked thee to anger by our sins, and exposed ourselves to thy just and awful judgments. O Lord, we humbly deprecate thy wrath against our sinful land. Deprive us not of our privileges, but give us grace to improve them better. Cut us not down as cumberers of the ground, but in mercy prolong our space for repentance, and send us times of revival and times of refreshing from thy presence. In the midst of wrath remember mercy. Let not the wickedness of the wicked prosper. Lift up a standard against the enemies of piety and righteousness, and arrest the progress of sin. Heal the backslidings of thy people, and all the unseemly divisions of the church. Give greater efficacy to the ministrations of thy servants and to the word of thy grace, that sinners may be converted unto thee, and all thy people edified and built up in love. And may our own souls prosper and be in health before thee. May we be interested in the great salvation, and being justified through the blood of Jesus, may we share in the blessed triumph and coming glory of his kingdom. Pardon our many offences and direct our steps this day in thy ways. And hear us for our Saviour's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—EPHESIANS V.

ALMIGHTY Father! enable us to draw near unto thee in the exercise of faith, and of a true heart, not trusting in our own righteousness, but in the merits and mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ. O give us the Spirit of adoption, to produce and cherish in us the principles of a new and holy nature, that as dear children we may be followers of God, and walk in love as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us. We earnestly desire to be united to Christ by a living faith, that we may receive out of his fulness all needful supplies of grace, and may bring forth the fruits of righteousness and holiness in life and conversation to thy praise and glory. We devoutly thank thee for calling us out of darkness into thy marvellous light, if so be that we have tasted that the Lord is gracious. O teach and enable us to walk as children of light, having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reproving them by our good conversation. While we would place all our trust for acceptance in thy sight, in the atoning sacrifice and perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for grace to enable us to live as becometh saints, deriding ungodliness and worldly lusts,

shunning all uncleanness and covetousness, all filthiness and foolish talking, and every sinful practice, and seeking to perfect holiness in thy fear. Having fled for refuge to Christ, the hope set before us in the gospel, may we never forget nor mistake the character which becomes his disciples. As he who hath called us is holy, so may we study to be holy also, in all manner of conversation and godliness. Grant us the grace of spiritual wisdom that we may understand what thy will is, and earnestly seek to fulfil it. O preserve us from all intemperance, and from every unhallowed indulgence and excess, that we may not dishonor thy holy name, nor degrade our Christian character. But fill our souls with the comforting and pervading presence of thy Holy Spirit, and with all peace and joy in believing. And give us grace to submit ourselves one to another in thy fear, and to discharge with fidelity all relative duties, taking Christ as our great example, and seeking to be subject unto him as the exalted Head and Husband of the church. In his name would we now desire to render thanks unto thee the Father, for the mercies of this day, and for all the temporal good we enjoy, but more especially for our invaluable spiritual privileges. And we pray for the enlargement of our Saviour's kingdom, and for the removal of every obstacle to its progress. May great accessions be daily made to that glorious church which is sanctified and cleansed with the washing of water by the word, and which Christ shall at last present to himself without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that it may be holy and without blemish. O do thou graciously pardon the sins we have committed this day, and take us under thy providential care during the night. Never leave nor forsake us, but be our covenant God and everlasting portion. And all that we ask is for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be glory and dominion ascribed, now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH LX.

O THOU eternal Spirit, who didst, in the work of creation, cause the light to shine out of darkness, shine graciously into our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. Our souls are by nature dark and polluted; and, alas! by reason of the ignorance that is in us, through the blindness and corruption of our hearts, we are alienated from God, and prone to prefer the darkness to the light. But, O do thou dispel the darkness, and subdue the enmity of our carnal minds, and shed abroad a divine light, and a divine love in our souls. Almighty Father, we thank thee for the external light and privileges of the gospel, for the record thou hast given of thy Son in the scriptures, for the knowledge of salvation, and for the offer and the means of eternal life. May we duly prize such blessed advantages, and rightly improve them. O give us grace that we may love the light, that we

may come unto it, and walk in it. Give us the light of spiritual knowledge in our minds, and the light of faith and of hope in our hearts. And make the light of thy gracious and reconciled countenance to shine upon us, that we may know our sins are forgiven, and that we are called by thy Holy Spirit to be partakers of the blessings of the new covenant. In thy wrath thou hadst reason to smite us; but glory to thy name, that in thy favor thou hast had mercy on us. O fulfil in our individual experience, all the good words and comfortable words, thou hast spoken concerning thy Israel. Called out of nature's darkness, into thy marvellous light, O help us to walk as children of the light, and as becometh our high and holy calling, and our glorious destiny, ever remembering that we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar people, and that we ought to shine as lights in the world. And we would rejoice, O Lord, in our connection with the church and kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We thank thee for all thy precious promises regarding her extension, and her latter-day glory; and we beseech thee to fulfil the blessed predictions which thy mouth hath spoken, and to hasten the happy era when darkness shall no more cover the earth, nor gross darkness the people; but when all the kings of the earth shall know and honor thee, and promote thy cause. Hasten, O Lord, the peace and prosperity of Zion, beautify the place of thy sanctuary, and glorify the house of thy glory. Put an end to the afflictions and persecutions of thy church, and let her no more be forsaken and hated; but let her be called the city of the Lord, the Zion of the holy One of Israel. Make her officers peace, and her exactors righteousness. Let her people also be all righteous, that it may be seen that she is the branch of thy planting, the work of thy hands, in which thou art glorified. And, O may we all share in her felicity, and be honored to extend her blessed influence in our generation. Hear, O Lord, these our humble prayers, and mercifully pardon all our sins, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—EPHESIANS VI.

HEAVENLY Father, we would humbly approach thee with holy reverence, and yet with filial confidence; rejoicing to believe that with thee our God there is mercy, that thou mayest be feared, and that thou art now reconciling a guilty world to thyself, through the death of thine own Son. For his righteousness' sake, we implore thee to forgive our offences, and to renew our hearts. We lament the deep corruption of our nature, and our constant proneness in consequence of it, to forget and omit the duties thou requirest of us. We are convinced in our minds, that the way of duty is the way of happiness, and that there is no true satisfaction, no peace or profit in sin. But alas! we feel a law in our members, warring against the law of

our minds, and preventing us from doing the things which we would. O do thou deliver us from the dominion of sin, and write thy law in our hearts, and give us the spirit of new obedience. Thou hast placed us in the various relations in which we stand to our fellow-men. May we study to discharge all the duties that belong to them in thy fear, and with a single eye to thy glory. We can do nothing in our own strength, but do thou, O Lord, make thy grace to be sufficient. And teach us ever to recognize, especially, the relations in which we stand to thee as creatures, and as redeemed sinners; and to feel the infinite obligations under which we are laid to serve thee, and the deep sense of gratitude by which we should be actuated. May it be our grand aim to please and honor God in all that we do. And may we daily search thy word, for the purpose of learning thy will, and with a sincere desire to perform it. But surrounded as we are in this sinful world with adverse influences, may we never foolishly trust in our own weak and treacherous hearts, but in the promised assistance of thy Holy Spirit. Fortify us to withstand the temptations by which we are assailed; help us to resist those formidable powers of darkness which are arrayed against us. Let not our great adversary the devil prevail over us, or entangle us by his insidious wiles. Enable us to put on the whole armor of God—to fight the good fight of faith, and in thy strength, to overcome all our spiritual enemies. We humbly thank thee for thy past goodness and protection. We pray for thy counsel to guide us this day, and during all our future progress on earth. And O grant us grace, so to employ our time here as to prepare for heaven. Graciously bless each of us, and all near and dear to us. Reward our benefactors, and forgive and change the hearts of our enemies. We pray for the universal diffusion of our holy religion, and for the entire subversion of all idolatry and sin. And we humbly entreat thee to hear and answer our prayers, for our divine Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Thirty-Ninth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CIX.

O GOD of our praise, we desire this morning to lift our souls in humble and grateful adoration unto thee. Turn not away our prayer from thee. Withhold not thy grace from us. Command thy blessing upon us, even life for evermore. What cause have we for gratitude that thou hast not cast us off forever; that thou hast not rendered our habitation desolate, and brought wrath upon us even to the uttermost! We are enemies to thee in our minds by wicked

works. We have manifested our enmity in various forms ; in our aversion to prayer ; in our want of subjection to thy law ; in our neglect of the great salvation ; in our practical disregard of thy threatenings ; and in living to ourselves, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind. Our backslidings are many, they testify against us. We cast ourselves on thy mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord. Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously, so will we render unto thee the fruit of our lips, the sacrifice of praise continually. When we read in thy word of the awful effects of apostasy from thee, may we fear lest we fall after the same example of unbelief. May we watch unto prayer. May we cultivate a growing acquaintance with the character and work of Christ, and labor in his strength to enter into the rest that remains for the people of God. May we esteem his reproach greater riches than the treasures of the world, and not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Who can understand his errors ? Cleanse thou us from secret faults, keep us back from presumptuous sin, and let no iniquity obtain dominion over us. We thank thee for the undisturbed enjoyment of our spiritual privileges, and more especially for permitting us to see another sabbath. Unite our hearts to fear thy name, to hallow thy day, to utter abundantly thy praise, and to draw nourishment from thy word. Increase our spiritual appetite, and satisfy us with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy place. Be very gracious to our pastor. Stand by and strengthen him in his varied labors. May he speak to the heart ; by manifestations of the truth commend himself to every man's conscience in the sight of God, and be blessed of thee in winning souls to Christ. Awaken the careless to serious thought. Send relief to thy poor and afflicted ones. Save thy people, and bless their inheritance ; feed them also, and lift them up forever. Forgive, we beseech thee, our manifold sins, and graciously accept of us for Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS CX. CXI.

O GOD, thou art glorious above all blessing and praise. We have only a very faint conception of the greatness of thy majesty, the extent of thy dominion, the glory of thy character, the riches of thy grace, and the power of thy wrath. When we had fallen into the depths of guilt and misery, thou didst, in the fulness of time, send forth thine own Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem us who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. We rejoice in the assurance that he has finished the work which thou gavest him to do ; that he hath put away sin by the sacrifice of himself ; that he hath brought in an everlasting righteousness ; and that he is able to save to the very uttermost all that come unto thee by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Penetrate us with a deep sense of our sinfulness. May we be ashamed

and confounded, and never dare to open our mouths any more in our own defence. May we feel and acknowledge, that if we had our due, the place of torment would be our portion. May we seek and find redemption through the blood of Christ, even the forgiveness of all our sins. Make us a willing people in the day of thy power. Enrol us among the number in the day of thy called, and chosen, and faithful ones. Nerve us for the contest with sin, satan, and the world. May we go forth to duty and trial, leaning on the omnipotent arm of the Redeemer; and may all our need be supplied out of thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Lord, increase the faith and patience of the saints. Give abundant success to the armies of the Lamb. Gird thy sword on thy thigh, O most Mighty, and in thy majesty ride prosperously, because of truth, and meekness, and righteousness. Hasten the time when every knee shall bow to Jesus, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Follow, we beseech thee, with thine enriching blessing, the dispensation of word and sacrament, this day throughout the church. May sinners in Zion be afraid. May the stout-hearted, and those who are far from righteousness, be subdued, and brought nigh unto thee by the blood of the cross. And may thine own people everywhere increase and abound in love toward one another, and toward all men. We bless thee for the continued supplies of spiritual food. Evermore give us the bread of life. Satisfy us early with thy mercy, so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days. Forgive, we humbly entreat thee, all our sins and shortcomings. Restore our souls, and lead us in the paths of righteousness for thy name's sake. We desire this evening to lie down in peace, committing ourselves, and all who are dear to us, to thy blessed guardianship. May we awake in safety, and ever walk closely with thee. Graciously listen to the voice of our petitions; and do unto us above all that we can ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH LXI. LXII.

O LORD our God, adored be thy name, that thou hast not left us like millions of our fellow-creatures, naturally no worse than we are, to feel after thee, if haply we might find thee. Through the tender mercy of our God the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light unto us who sat in darkness, and in the region and shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace. Thou hast brought near thy righteousness, and revealed unto us the abundance of grace and truth. Thou art inviting and beseeching us all, unworthy as we are, to receive the atonement; to be reconciled unto thee through the death of thy Son; to be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation. What manner of persons ought we to be in fervent gratitude, in deep humility, in holy conversation and godliness? Alas! we have requited thy love with the basest ingratitude. We have

disregarded thy solemn and affectionate calls. We have undervalued the exceeding great and precious promises of the gospel. We have turned to our farms and our merchandise, our studies and amusements, and neglected the things that belong to our everlasting peace. We have grieved thy Spirit, both by our remissness and carnality. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Blot out, we beseech thee, as a thick cloud our transgressions, and as a cloud our sins. Revive and quicken us for thine own name's sake. Rescue us from the spiritual poverty, degradation, and misery, in which we are involved. Bring us into the glorious liberty of thy children. O let thy Holy Spirit be upon us, that we may venerate the power of the Redeemer; that we may confide in his love; that we may rejoice in his salvation; that we may grow in conformity to his image; and that we may seek the good of his church always. Lord, do thou accomplish, in thine own good time, the glorious things which thou hast spoken of Zion. Remove every obstacle in the way of her enlargement. Strengthen the bars of her gates. Preserve peace in her borders, and fill her with the finest of the wheat. Make bare thy holy arm in the conversion of thine ancient people, and render speedily Jerusalem a praise in the whole earth. We bless thee, O Lord, for thy protecting care, and thine unwearied goodness. Thou hast made our cup run over. Thou hast punished us far less than our sins deserve. In wrath thou hast remembered mercy. May our comforts be blessed, our trials sanctified, and our brotherly love increased. Be very gracious to all who are dear to us. If they be in danger, do thou protect them; if they be in sorrow, do thou comfort them; if they be exposed to temptation, do thou keep them from falling; and if they be still in their sins, do thou save them by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. Give food to the hungry, execute judgment for the oppressed, and raise up all that are bowed down. O Lord, hear; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not for thine own name's sake. And unto thee be ascribed all glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—PHILIPPIANS I.

O GOD, we adore thee as the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, and with whom there is no variableness, neither the least shadow of turning. We rejoice to know that what thou hast done for countless multitudes, in every age of the church, thou art able and willing to do also for us. With thee there is enough of heavenly provision, and to spare. O do thou begin thy good work in each of our souls. Disclose to us the full extent of our depravity. Lead us in brokenness of spirit to the footstool of thy throne. Cause all thy goodness in Christ Jesus to pass before us. Shine into our hearts, to give us the light of the knowl-

edge of thy glory in the face of Christ. May we rejoice here in having no confidence in the flesh. May we be constrained by his love to resist temptation, to mortify sin, to endure afflictions, and to abound in the fruits of righteousness, which are, through Jesus Christ, to the praise and glory of God. May we never be moved away from the faith and hope of the gospel. May we follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth; in sunshine and darkness; in joy and sorrow; through good report and bad report. May we continue steadfast and immovable, always abounding in thy work, in nothing terrified by our adversaries; and in the prospect of death, may we have a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. We thank thee, O Lord, for thy continued goodness. Unless the Lord had been our help, our souls had almost dwelt in silence. When we said, our feet are slipping away, thy mercy, O Lord, held us up. In the multitude of our thoughts within us, thy comforts delight our souls. God of our fathers, be the God of our children. Bring all with whom we are connected, and in whom we are interested, to the fellowship of the gospel. Make them partakers of thy grace. Remove every root of bitterness from our hearts, and prepare us for eternal communion in heaven. Regard the prayer of the destitute; hear the groaning of the prisoner; and loose those that are appointed to death. Go forth with thy faithful ministers and missionaries everywhere, making the mountain a plain before them. Let idolatry with its unnumbered evils be speedily abolished. Let those who are incensed against thee be ashamed, and all who trust in thee rejoice. Let the whole earth be filled with the glory of the Lord. And now, O Lord, what wait we for? Our hope is in thee. Free us from all our trespasses. Stretch over us this night the shield of thy blessed protection. Let goodness and mercy follow us all our days, and may we dwell at last in thy house forever. And to thy name in Christ Jesus, be eternal praise. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH LXIII. LXIV.

HOLY God, we acknowledge the entire righteousness of all thy dispensations in the government of this world. Thou mightest have done with our church and nation as thou didst to other churches and other lands, for we have in many respects grievously offended thee, both as regards our duty in thy church, and in the civil community wherewith we are connected. Be merciful to us according to the multitude of thy compassions, and the merit of our Redeemer's propitiation, and not according to our own deservings. May we be enabled ever to feel the influence of the death of Christ subduing the enmity of our hearts, and producing in us the renouncement of all rebellion against thee. And do thou grant that our church and country may so turn from all which is displeasing in thine eyes, as to experience the fulfilment of the promise thou hast made to all

who reform and forsake their sins. O Lord God, remember the desolate condition of thy people Israel, far more afflicted now than when it was in former times deeply bewailed by thy prophets. Great have been their sins, as a people, against the Messiah, for whom their fathers, in former times, looked with longing desire. Do thou speedily remove the veil which is upon their hearts, and give them savingly to know him, whom, with wicked hands, their fathers crucified. And may the ingathering of Israel be to the Gentile nations even as life from the dead. May all the other nations of the world, now sitting in darkness, whose forefathers enjoyed the brilliant shining of the Sun of righteousness, be enlightened and awakened by thy Holy Spirit. Their candlestick has been removed out of its place by reason of their undervaluing and misimproving their exalted privileges: may their day of merciful visitation even return, in which the glad sound of the eternal gospel shall invite them to thy feet. And do thou lead those who enjoy the true light of thy word to consider seriously the darkness which has arisen on the countries where some of thy most famous churches were once located, lest they imitate them in the sin which has brought on them so terrible a calamity. Hear us, forgive us, save us, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—PHILIPPIANS II.

ETERNAL God, we are ashamed to think how much our anxieties have been confined to our own individual concerns, and how feeble has been our intercession in behalf of the heathen who are living without thee in the world. Lord Jesus, we blush to look on thy cross, where unspeakable sufferings bespoke thy compassion for mankind, feeling the deep reproach cast by the light streaming thence on the feebleness of our endeavors, and the insignificant nature of the sacrifices we have made to advance the holy cause of celestial compassion. Father of mercies, may our hearts feel the impress of thy great benevolence, and show our fellowship with thee by the odor of that love breathing in our lives, which led thee to give thy Son, for man's transgression, to die. May the mind which was in Christ be increasingly seen pervading the hearts and lives of his followers. To the great harvest of souls, ripening in the fields of this world for an endless life, send forth many laborers, who will not count their lives dear unto themselves, that they may testify on this sinful earth the gospel of the grace of God. And may the whole earth soon be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God shining in the face of Christ, even as the waters cover the channels of the stormy sea. We commend ourselves and our supplications to the ever-prevalent intercession of our great High Priest, who has passed into the heavens. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—ISAIAH LXVI.

O MERCIFUL and righteous God, thou art terrible in thine anger, as well as glorious in thy mercy. Who would not fear thee, whose judgments have often desolated the earth, in righteous retribution, on account of the sins of men, and whose judgments will still more awfully appear when the heavens shall declare thy righteousness at the great day of thy final judgment? Thine anger, so justly provoked, is no cause of wonder; but the extraordinary grace thou revealest now to lost mankind, is most amazing. It may well fill, with profoundest astonishment, the minds of angels, that thou, whose greatness surpasses the highest flight of excited imagination, shouldst condescend to dwell with those whose hearts have been taught to tremble at thy word. O Lord, give us wisdom so to perceive thy mercies and thy terrors, that we may at all times be found poor and of a contrite spirit. May thy truth be diffused still more extensively on earth, until the revelation of thy character, there set forth, subdue many out of every people. We tremble to think of the danger to which many, in whom we ought to feel deeply interested, are exposed by reason of their rebellion against thee. O touch their hearts that, made willing in a day of thy power, they may really return to thee by the way thou hast consecrated, and by which the greatest sinner may find mercy at thy throne. Do with us as thou pleasest during the few short years of this our mortal life; but grant unto us that we may find mercy with thee at the great day, which shall unchangeably decide the destiny of all the inhabitants of earth for eternity. Hear us for thy beloved Son's sake. Glory be to thee who sittest upon the throne, and to thee, O Lamb of God, who once for us was slain. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—PHILIPPIANS III.

FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ, we render thee our humble thanks for having so loved this rebellious world as to give thine only-begotten Son to a life of sorrow, and to a death of untold agony, that we might live through him. We magnify thee, O ever-glorious Son of God, for the mysterious righteousness, the righteousness of God made manifest in the flesh, by which sinners may now be made righteous notwithstanding all the guiltiness into which they have been plunged by transgression. O Holy Ghost, we bless thee for the revelation of this plan for justifying sinners, devised in the councils of eternity, and now declared by thee in the word given by thine own inspiration. Eternal God, may this sacred righteousness be all our confidence in life and death. May that faith be in us which

unites to the Lord Jesus; and do thou impute to us his righteousness for our justification before thee. We renounce and forego all dependence on ourselves and on our own deservings, and turn to this as our only confidence. And may our hearts be constrained by the love he displayed in making this amazing provision for our recovery, to live only to him. May the great object for which he came into the world—the destruction of the works of satan, ever be the foremost object of our lives; and to his second coming may we look with longing expectation, as the period of our perfect sanctification, and of his completed glory. Lord, increase the number of those who walk under the constraining influence of the cross of Christ. Awaken those who dream of peace while really at war with him; and hasten the period when he shall reign undisputed and unresisted from shore to shore, even to the earth's remotest boundary. Hear us for his, our Redeemer's sake. Glory be to the God of Israel, even to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost forever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH I.

O LORD, we adore thee as the Creator and the Governor of the universe, the sovereign disposer of all events. Thou madest us, and not we ourselves. Thou upholdest us in life, and orderest every circumstance in our lot; and all thy paths are mercy and truth to such as keep thy covenant and thy testimonies. Give us grace to take hold of thy covenant in Jesus Christ. May we joyfully receive him, as he is offered to us in the gospel, as the propitiation for our sins, the end of the law for righteousness, our advocate and intercessor with thee the Father. And whilst we rely on his merits and mediation for pardon and justification, for righteousness and eternal life, may the love of Christ constrain us to live not unto ourselves, but unto him that died for us and rose again, adorning the doctrine of our God and Saviour by a walk and conversation becoming the gospel. And do thou, O Lord, fit us for whatever may be thy will and our duty. Thou hast made all things for thyself, and hast a right to employ us according to thy pleasure. In the respective situations which thou hast appointed us, may we be active, diligent, and laborious; and may we obtain mercy of the Lord to be found faithful. Sensible of our own weakness, that in ourselves we are without strength, may we be clothed with humility. But knowing that there is help for us in God, assured that he is faithful who hath said, My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness, may we go on in the strength of the Lord, declining no service, and fearing no danger. May our only inquiry be, What, Lord, wilt thou have us to do? and do thou work in us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure, that we may glorify thee in all things through Jesus Christ. Should fidelity to thee, our God, ex-

pose us to hatred and persecution from men, let us not be dismayed at their faces; but knowing who hath said, I will never leave nor forsake thee, may we boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. We bless thee, O Lord, that thou hast, in all ages of the church, raised up and qualified men for thy service. Be very gracious to all ministers and missionaries. Let thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. May great grace be unto all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity; and do thou add to thy church such as shall be saved. Have compassion on the poor and destitute, on the afflicted and the dying, and grant them grace according to their need. Regard in mercy our beloved friends and relatives. May their names be written in the book of life, and may they be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. We thank thee for the mercies of the past night and of this morning. Let thy presence go with us throughout the day. In all our purposes and pursuits may we act in a humble dependence on thy grace, with an earnest desire to do thy will and to promote thy glory; and do thou prosper all our undertakings for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—PHILIPPIANS IV.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God; and we bless thee that life and immortality are clearly brought to light in the gospel; for we believe that as Jesus died and rose again, even so them which sleep in Jesus, God will bring with him. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for those who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. O Lord, may we be among those whom thou hast chosen to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth; and looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his own glorious body, may we be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Zealous for the honor of the Redeemer's name, and the interests of pure and undefiled religion, may we walk in love as Christ also loved us, following after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith we may edify one another. And, O Lord, let not the weakness of our faith, the imperfection of our graces, or the troubles and the trials of this life, rob us of those consolations which the gospel of Jesus is intended to administer. Claiming relation to thee as our God and Father in Christ, contemplating the fulness of right-

eousness and grace that is treasured up in our divine Redeemer, and anticipating an eternity of blessedness in heaven, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Living on these holy and heavenly joys, knowing that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh, may we exercise a merciful and forgiving temper, and exhibit a becoming moderation in all our worldly concerns, and constant resignation and submission to thy will. May satan's kingdom be brought to desolation, and on its ruins do thou everywhere establish the kingdom of righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Let thy peace rest on our Zion. Appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks, and may the glory of the Lord be her defence. Bless our friends, and abundantly reward our benefactors. May our God supply all their need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Forgive our enemies, and help us to forgive them from the heart. Visit in mercy the sons and daughters of affliction; sanctify affliction; spare useful lives; and prepare the dying for their great change. Accept of our thanksgivings for the mercies of the past day, and take us under thy protection throughout the night. Let thy peace rest on our habitation. May our sleep be sweet; and may we awake in the morning refreshed in body, and rejoicing in that peace of God which passeth all understanding. Hear us, O Lord, and when thou hearest, answer and forgive, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH II.

O THOU that hearest prayer, unto thee would we lift up our souls, for thou art good and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all that call on thee. Thou hast made goodness and mercy to follow after us all the days of our life. But, alas! we have forgotten the God that made us, and have lightly esteemed the Rock of our salvation. And thou mightest justly have left us to eat the fruit of our own ways, and to be filled with our own devices. But to our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him. In the counsels of eternity thou didst devise a scheme of reconciliation and peace. When the fulness of time was come, thou didst send forth thy Son, made of a woman, made under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons; and in the gospel of salvation thou art addressing us in these gracious words, Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings; return, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you. Turn thou us, O Lord, and we shall be turned, for thou art the Lord our God. Open our eyes to see the vanity of this world, and all its perishing enjoyments. Convince us that they who are far from thee shall perish; and O dispose us all to come unto thee, saying, in the language of the prodigal, Father, we have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are not worthy to be called thy children; and do thou, O Lord, embrace

us in the arms of thy mercy; restore us to thy family and favor. Say unto us, I will be to you a Father, and ye shall be my sons and daughters. I will be merciful to your unrighteousness; your sins and iniquities I will remember no more. Return unto me, for I have redeemed you. And, O Lord, do thou give us the affections and dispositions of thy children. Henceforth may we bow with reverence to thine authority, meekly submit to thy chastisements, study thy will, and render to thee a hearty and a constant obedience, animated and strengthened by thy Spirit. May we be followers of God as dear children, holy as thou art holy, merciful as thou art merciful, perfect as thou our Father in heaven art perfect. May the gospel of Jesus soon be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. Revive thy work in the midst of us, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Heal the sick and comfort the afflicted. When their heart is overwhelmed, lead them to the rock that is higher than they. May all our friends be the friends of God. Be near to those who are far from us. May our prayers meet before thy throne of grace. Thou hast preserved us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and hast permitted us to see the light of a new day. Lord, lift thou up upon us the light of thy countenance. Quicken us in duty, and prepare us for whatever may be the allotments of thy providence. Whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may we do all to the glory of God, through Jesus Christ the Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—COLOSSIANS I.

HOLY, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. Who should not fear thee and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil; thou canst not look upon iniquity; and iniquities, we must confess, prevail against us. We have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are utterly unworthy to approach into thy presence, or to take thy sacred name into our polluted lips. But though we have sinned, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, who is the propitiation for our sins, and who is able to save to the uttermost of all that come unto God by him, because he ever liveth to make intercession for us. In the name, and relying on the intercession of our great High Priest in heaven, would we now prostrate ourselves before thy throne of grace, to implore mercy to pardon, and grace to help in time of need. God be merciful to us sinners. May we have redemption through the blood of Jesus, even the forgiveness of our sins, and may we be reconciled to thee by the death of thy Son. And O may the Holy Spirit take of the things of Christ and show them to us, that we may be filled with admiration of his glory, that we may rely with confidence on his grace and power to save, and may live devoted, soul and body to his service. Contem-

plating him as the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person, as the Creator and Preserver of all things, the Lord of angels and of men, may we honor the Son even as we honor the Father. And may we be filled with the knowledge of his will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. Extend the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom. Hasten the time when the fulness of the Gentiles shall come in, and all Israel shall be saved. Enlarge and purify our beloved church. May her peace be as a river, and her righteousness as the waves of the sea. Regard the prayer of the destitute, and prepare of thy goodness for the poor. Hear the cry of the distressed, and send help from above. May the dying die in the Lord, that death may be to them the entrance into everlasting life. May those in whom we are specially interested by the ties of nature and affection be the objects of thy special love, thy paternal care, and saving grace; and enable us to put on bowels of mercy, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another. Thou hast brought us to the close of another day. Lord, teach us so to count our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. To the Keeper of Israel we commit our souls, and our bodies, and all our concerns, through the night. May the eye that never slumbers watch over us, and underneath us be the everlasting arms. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH VI.

MOST gracious God, we, thy frail and dependent creatures, would present our united thanksgivings for the mercies of the past night, and the light of this morning. We lay down and slept, we awaked, for thou the Lord sustainedst us. And now, that we are entering upon the duties of the day, we should seek thy guidance, and commit ourselves to thy care. O Lord, we confess that we are unworthy of the least of thy mercies; for we are partakers of a fallen nature, and are chargeable with many violations of thy holy law. Enter not into judgment with us. Let not our iniquities be remembered before thee, but blot them out for the sake of him whom thou hearest always, and for whom thou art ready to forgive the chief of sinners. May Christ be made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. May we be instructed by the scriptures which he inspired; may we be animated by the spirit which he breathed; may we be cultivating the graces which he exhibited; may we at all times be seeking to be meet for the mansions which he hath gone to prepare for his people. O Lord, let us always remember that thou art faithful in thy threatenings, and that thy judgments shall fall on the impenitent and ungodly. Lord, teach

us to see the evil nature and bitter fruits of sin, that, knowing how much it dishonoreth thee, and how ruinous it is to our own souls, we may depart from all iniquity. Cause us to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning, for in thee do we trust; cause us to know the way wherein we should walk, for we lift up our souls unto thee. Thy thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are thy ways our ways; for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are thy ways higher than our ways, and thy thoughts than our thoughts. Grant, O Lord, that we may be encouraged by thy merciful invitations, returning to thee that thou mayest have mercy upon us, and that thou mayest abundantly pardon. May a sense of thy goodness subdue our obdurate hearts, and may we hereafter glorify thee in our souls and in our bodies which are thine. Enable us, O Lord, to look back with profit upon those ages of thy church that were most distinguished for faith and holiness. And while we find examples of many in early times who witnessed a good confession in the world, let us copy their patterns, and seek to grow in their manifold graces, yielding in meek submission to thy holy will, contending for the faith that was once delivered to the saints, and confessing that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth, whose great endeavor should be, to be travelling toward the city that hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. To thee, the God of all comfort, we commend those of our brethren who are visited with trial, beseeching thee to heal their sorrows, so that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Bless all who are connected with us by the ties of nature, and the bonds of grace. O Lord, may thy grace descend on all conditions of men, so that they may choose the good part that cannot be taken away, and lay hold on eternal life. And now, to thee the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all glory and honor. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—COLOSSIANS II.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who hast watched over us during the engagements of this day, vouchsafe to us thy grace, while we present before thee our prayers at its close. Help us to worship thee who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth; and grant that in all our approaches to thy throne of mercy, we may look to be heard and regarded only through the merits of our once crucified but now exalted Lord. O Lord, do thou enable us with the docility of children, to receive into our understandings and hearts all the discoveries of thy holy word, as coming from thee the Father of lights, and as necessary to be believed and obeyed for our everlasting welfare. Great, O Lord, is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. May we see this truth to be the only foundation for peace of mind; may we regard it as proving the efficacy of Christ's atoning blood. And grant

that we, believing in his greatness and glory, as the Son of God; and in his compassion and mercy, as the Son of man; may through him receive the remission of our manifold sins, and enjoy that peace of mind which passeth all understanding, and which flows from faith in thee as a reconciled Father. May we, O Lord, be delivered out of the hands of all our enemies; may we be saved from the devil, and the world, and the flesh; and may we serve thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives. Let us, O Lord, stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free; yet ever reverence and ever regard as of perpetual obligation all those ordinances which are enjoined in thy word, and which may prepare us for serving thee on earth, and for enjoying thee in heaven. O Lord, we confess the hold which the world hath over us, how prone we are to be allured by its pleasures, and distracted by its cares, and we desire, now that the business of the week is closing, to bless thee for the appointment of the Sabbath, and for the prospect we have of entering on its holy engagements. Spread around us the shield of thy protection during the silence of the night, and preserve us, if it be thy good pleasure, to the light of another day of the Son of man. And grant, most merciful Father, that thy blessing may so abundantly descend on the religious exercises of the Sabbath, that our souls may be prepared by them for an everlasting Sabbath in heaven. Convey the glad tidings of redemption to all the tribes of men, and let the banners of the cross be unfurled in every land. In thee, O Lord, all the families of the earth are blessed. Be pleased to bless all the members of this family, and grant that we may all have one faith and one Lord; so that we who are travelling through the world together on earth, may be heirs together of thy kingdom above. Let our prayers, O Lord, go up before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice, acceptable through the mediation of Jesus Christ, our ever-blessed Redeemer. Amen.

Fortieth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS CXII. CXIII.

Most gracious God, who, in tenderness to man, hast appointed one day in seven to be a holy sabbath to thyself, we praise and bless thee that our sleep has not been the sleep of death, and that a Christian sabbath has again returned to us. May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and in all our religious exercises may we glorify him who is the Lord of the sabbath. Keep us from profaning thy day, by either the omission or the careless performance of its duties. May

it be a day of refreshing to our souls from the presence of the Lord. May we have larger views of thy love to us through Jesus Christ, and of our duty to thee. May we be made more fully aware of our lost condition by sin, and of the great salvation which was wrought by him, who put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. May our admiration of the excellence of Christ in his divine nature, and his holy character, and his various offices, as prophet, priest, and king, to his people, increase more and more. May we experience more of the work of the Spirit in our hearts, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, bringing about a conformity to the image of Christ, and producing its blessed fruits of faith, hope, and charity. Make the sabbath, O Lord, to be more reverently and devoutly observed throughout the land. May every attempt to violate its sacredness, be discouraged by men of influence and power; and may the poor become sensible of its value, to both their temporal and their eternal welfare. Avert, we beseech thee, the judgments which our abounding iniquities have provoked. Pour out a spirit of repentance and reformation upon the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the old and the young. Suffer us not to imagine that our state is secure, because riches increase, or arts are improved, or our munitions are strong. May it be graven on our minds that a nation prospers, and individuals are blessed, in proportion as the law of the Lord is revered. Let it not be our condemnation that we have forsaken thy law, and are walking after the imaginations of our own hearts. May the pride of self-righteousness be removed from us, and may we be so thoroughly convinced of our sinfulness and guilt, that we may thankfully accept of the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ, and may glory in nothing save in his cross. May the ministers of Christ have grace to be faithful in warning their people to flee from the wrath to come, and in bringing them to know the Lord, who delighteth in loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, and exerciseth these things in the earth. Go with us, and our fellow-worshippers, this day to thy sanctuary, and show us thy salvation. Comfort and revive with thy presence, all those who are prevented from engaging in the solemnities of thy house. Uphold and direct our pastor in discharging his sacred duties; and let all our devotional exercises throughout the day be productive of the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. Hear, O Lord, and forgive, and accept of us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS CXIV. CXV.

O THOU, who didst breathe into our nostrils the breath of life, and by whose kind visitation we are preserved and blessed, we give thee thanks for all thy temporal mercies, and we humbly pray, that in whatsoever measure thou art pleased to supply them, we may ac-

knowledge thine undeserved goodness, and may show forth thy praise, by living in obedience to thy law. O thou, who art the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who, according to thine abundant mercy, hast begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of thy Son from the dead, we give thee thanks that thou hast quickened us together with Christ, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. May that spiritual life which we derive from thee, be cherished and sustained by the gracious influences of the Holy Ghost. Having raised us from the death of sin, and mortified within us the desires of the flesh, may he enable us to set our affections on things above, and be continually advancing to a greater meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. May he render us watchful against sinful thoughts, and sinful words, and sinful deeds, which bring down the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. May he render us diligent in exercising and improving humbleness of mind, meekness, charity, and all the other graces, which are the ornaments of thine elect. May he prepare our hearts for receiving the word of Christ; and so accompany the reading and the preaching of the word with his own demonstration, that it may be quick and powerful in enlightening our understandings, and directing our conduct. May love to the Saviour so dwell within us, that whatsoever we do, may we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. In all the relations of life may we strive to adorn his doctrine. In our social and domestic intercourse, and in every situation in which we are called to act, may we maintain the dispositions and the character of those who serve the Lord Christ, and who hope through him to receive the reward of the inheritance. We give thee thanks, O Lord, for the comfort which we have enjoyed, and the instructions which we have received from the exercises and employments of thy holy day. Pardon wherein we have sinned in our religious services. Bless them to us and to our fellow-worshippers; and as sabbath after sabbath returns, may the Lord make us to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, to the end he may establish our hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. We pray for the good of our country, and for our rulers. We pray for the good of our church, and the universal diffusion of the blessings of the gospel of Christ. May they be the portion of all who labor under affliction. May they be the portion of every member of this family, and of every friend and relation that we have. Watch, O Lord, around our bed while we sleep, and whether we wake or sleep, may we be accepted with thee, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH IX.

O LORD our God, thou dwellest on high, and thy glory is above the heavens. Thou inhabitest eternity, and art supremely and un-

changeably happy in thyself. The services of men and of angels can add nothing to thee. Their transgressions cannot lessen thy glory. Who is like unto thee, that humblest thyself to behold even the things that are in heaven? Yet thou hast respect unto the lowly upon earth; yea, thou dwellest with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the spirit of the contrite ones. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Our hope is in thee. We are poor and needy; and we adore and praise thee that thou dost regard the prayer of the destitute, and dost not despise their prayer. We thank thee also, that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, through whom we can come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need. Behold, O God, our shield, and look on the face of thine Anointed, that we, believing in him, may find favor in thy sight. May we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. May our wants be supplied out of his fulness, that we may be as men of God, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. May his Spirit help our infirmities, so that our feet may be set as on a rock, and our goings may be established in the way of thy commandments. May we know the blessedness of them that fear thee, and delight in thy law. In our intercourse with others, and in all our temporal enjoyments, may we be kept from the evil which the things of the world are apt to beget. In tribulation, may the hope of the gospel be as the anchor of our souls, sure and steadfast. Depending upon thee, as reconciled to us by the death of thy Son, and providing for us with a father's care, may we be enabled to possess our souls with patience. May the changes of life be borne with cheerful submission to thee; and may the approach of death be regarded, not as the extinction of our joys, but as the period of our entering into peace, to be forever with the Lord. As members of a family, we offer grateful thanks for thy kindness in preserving us to another day, and allowing us again to meet at the throne of grace. Be with us, O Lord, in all our out-goings and in-comings, to direct our ways, and keep us from evil. May blessings, even showers of blessings, descend upon our kindred, our neighbors, and our friends. Show tokens for good to those who are in trouble. Be favorable to our land, and to all who rule over us. Prosper our Zion; and give effect to the means that are employed for extending the knowledge of thyself, and of thy great salvation; that from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, thy name may be praised. Hear us, O Lord, in these our prayers, and answer us in thy mercy, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—COLOSSIANS III.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the living and the true God. Thou art possessed of every perfection, and all thy perfections are infinite.

Thou didst create all things by the word of thy power. Thy throne is in heaven, and thy dominion ruleth over all. Thou art everywhere present. Thou art acquainted with the circumstances of all thy creatures, and thou art ever doing them good. Thou hast been mindful of us ; and we render hearty thanks for the great and unwearied kindness of thy providence. Thou hast supplied all our wants. Thou hast relieved us from many difficulties. Thou hast given us much enjoyment in life. Thou hast been mindful of us ; and how shall we express the gratitude that is due for the riches of thy grace ! Thou didst effect the deliverance of thy chosen Israel from their bondage of old, and didst manifest thy kindness to them by marvellous interpositions in their behalf. But how much greater is the deliverance which thou hast effected for us from the bondage of sin, and how much more hast thou magnified thy mercy to us, in sending thine only-begotten Son to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons ! Adored be thy name, for all the signs and the wonders which assure us that God did set him forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, and that God has accepted him as such. Adored be thy name, that when he had offered the one sacrifice of himself for sins, he was raised from the dead by the mighty power of God, and exalted by thy right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. Thou hast commended thy love towards us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Thou hast not spared thine own Son, but hast delivered him up for us all. By him thou art giving us exceeding great and precious promises ; and with him thou wilt freely give us all things that pertaineth unto life and godliness. May we be rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, abounding therein with thanksgiving. May our convictions of the love of the Saviour be deep and abiding, that we may praise him while we live, and trust in him continually as our help and our shield. May he dwell in our hearts by his Spirit, and bring us wholly under his dominion, that we may be a willing people unto him in the beauties of holiness. May that church which he purchased with his blood, be blessed of the Lord in its people and its priests. May the light of true religion shine within it ; and may numbers be added to it daily of such as shall be saved. Make Gentiles and Jews to tremble at the presence of the Lord, and to own him as the God of their salvation. May all whom thou art pleased to chasten, be brought to trust in that Lord who will bless them that fear him, both small and great. May it be the experience of every member of this family, and of all to whom we are tenderly attached, that we are blessed of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. To thy fatherly care do we commit ourselves through the night. Forgive all our sins, and accept of us for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XII.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, in whose hands is the breath of every living thing, and the soul of all mankind, we desire this morning to pour out our hearts before thee in prayer. Every day presents us with fresh tokens of thy goodness and renewed memorials of thy grace. When thou upholdest us by thy Spirit, we are able to rejoice in our strength; when thou withdrawest thy face we are troubled, and go down to the dust whence we came. Above all, O Lord, we would bless thee for thy saving mercy manifested towards us in Jesus Christ. Herein indeed, is love, not that we loved thee, but that thou lovedst us, and gavest thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish but have eternal life. O the height and the depth, and the breadth and the length of thy love, shown to us in not sparing thine own Son, but delivering him up to the death for us all. May our minds be enlightened by the discoveries of thy word. May our hearts be enriched by the visitations of thy grace, so that we may sincerely believe in the Saviour, and thankfully embrace his great salvation. May we renounce all refuges of lies, to lean on the only name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. May we stand as suppliants at the foot of the cross, confessing our lost condition, and asking humbly for pardon and redemption as thy free and unmerited gifts, through the mediation of thy blessed Son. O Lord, do thou open our understandings, to learn the unsearchable riches of thy grace. Do thou dispose our hearts to love and serve thee. May the Holy Spirit deliver us from the dominion of evil, and restore us to the glorious liberty of the sons of God. O Lord, we acknowledge that the ways of thy providence seem often dark to our weak and ignorant minds. Let not our souls be disquieted within us, when thy dispensations are beyond the reach of our limited knowledge. Enable us, in the most perplexing difficulties, and under the most painful trials, to preserve a firm faith in thee, as ordering all things after the counsel of thine own will, and overruling all events for thine own glory, and for the spiritual good of thy believing people. Teach us, O Lord, to possess our souls in patience, and give to us the blessedness of the man whose mind is stayed upon the Lord, and whose spirit is joyful in the God of his salvation. Hasten, O Lord, the time foretold by the prophets, when every form of idolatry shall be overthrown, when the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Most merciful Father, let thy blessing descend on all who are laid on beds of languishing, and let thy mercy be extended to them that are appointed to die. Watch over our friends, to keep them from the evils that are in the world, and to enrich them abundantly with spiritual blessings. O Lord, prepare us for the duties of this day, let our lives be spent in thy fear, and let us be received at death into glory, for the sake of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—COLOSSIANS IV.

O LORD God of our salvation, let our prayer this evening come before thee, and incline thine ear to our cry. We have sinned against thee, O thou preserver of men, and we are no more worthy to be called thy children. We have not received the lessons of thy word into our hearts, we have not been improved as we ought to have been by the ways of thy providence. Neither thy solemn warnings, nor thy tender invitations, have made a suitable impression on our souls. O Lord, pardon our sins and save us from temptation. Take the stony hearts out of our flesh, and give us hearts of flesh, that we may walk in thy statutes, and keep thine ordinances, and do them, that we may be thy people, and that thou mayest be our God. O may the love of Christ constrain us thus to judge, that if one died for all then were all dead; and that he died for all, that they which live, should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them and rose again. Let the Holy Spirit dwell in our souls; let faith, and hope, and love, and joy, and humility, and resignation, take up their abode in our hearts, and let us look not at the things that are seen and temporal, but at the things that are unseen and eternal. O Lord, teach us to remember that we have all one Master in heaven, and let us, under the influence of this conviction, be regarding all our brethren with a brother's eye, and be doing good to all men as we have opportunity. Let us feel the necessity, and let us value the privilege, of making our requests known unto thee, and let us be praying always for thy grace, and for the supply of our many spiritual wants. We confess that we are prone to speak unadvisedly with our lips. Lord, let our speech be always with grace, let us reverence thy name, let us yield to thy law, let us seek thy glory in all the language we employ, so that we may in all our words and in all our ways, show that we are Christians in sincerity and in truth. And enable us, O Lord, to glory in the cross of Jesus Christ, and to confess him before men, that he may confess us before thee in heaven. We pray, O Lord, for them who are stewards of thy grace, that they may be supported under every discouragement, that they may be guided in every difficulty, and that they may be honored as the instruments of winning souls to the Redeemer. Let them be taking heed to the ministry which they have received of thee, that they fulfil it. Gracious Father, bless the old, and let them be walking in wisdom, redeeming the time, because the days are evil; bless the young, and let them in the morning of life be choosing thee as the guide of their youth, so that there may be a seed to serve thee while sun and moon endure; bless all who live under this roof, and let us be so continually living under a sense of thy presence, and so earnestly doing what Christ commands, that we may be all admitted into the number of the redeemed, and may serve thee forever in thy temple above. Hear, O Lord, these our evening prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XIV.

UNTO whom, O Lord, can we go but unto thee, for in all ages thou hast been the hearer and the answerer of prayer, the rock and support of them that put their trust in thee. We would take encouragement from thine own revealed word, that them who come unto thee through Christ, thou wilt in no wise cast out; and we would desire, on this morning which thou hast spared us to see, to lift up our hearts with our voices in prayer and supplication unto thee. Help us now to do so in the name of Jesus. We humble ourselves before thee because of our manifold sins. We have requited thy loving-kindness with ingratitude, we have despised thy warnings, we have misimproved our privileges, we have trifled away our precious time. How little have we been awed by thy threatenings, or affected by thy merciful invitations! How low a place does the love of thee, and of Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, hold in our hearts! How often is it dispossessed by the perishing things of time! And with how little earnestness and faith have we sought reconciliation with thee, or the sanctifying power of thy Spirit! Justly, instead of loading us with mercies, mightest thou have visited us with judgments, as thou didst thine impenitent people of old. May thy goodness lead us to our repentance. Magnify thy name in our salvation. We would plead the merits of Christ's sacrifice, the efficacy of his atonement, the power of his grace. Hear us for thy mercy's sake. Save us from being led astray by those who would speak unto us smooth things, and prophesy deceits, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace. But give us to know the preciousness of Christ, and to cleave to him as the hope of Israel. May he be formed in our hearts the hope of glory, and by his Spirit given unto us, may our souls be transformed after his divine image. Lord, bless our native land. Let not our sins, as a nation, provoke thee to anger. Do not abhor us for thy name's sake, be still in the midst of us, leave us not. Remember unbelieving Israel in mercy. Speedily bring them in with the fulness of the Gentiles. Be the friend of our friends, give comfort to the afflicted, prepare the dying for meeting with thee. We give thee thanks for the rest and protection of the past night. Bless us all individually as thou seest we have need. Keep us this day in thy fear. May we engage in nothing on which we cannot ask thy blessing, and may all we do for thy glory prosper. Blot out all our sins, and hear us graciously in these our requests, through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—1 THESSALONIANS I.

O LORD, who art good unto all, and whose tender mercies are over all thy works, we come before thee on this evening, confessing that

we have nothing to hope for, but from the riches of thy free and unmerited goodness in Christ Jesus our Lord, and giving thee thanks for the word of truth which thou hast put into our hands, making known the rich provision for our souls in the gospel of thy Son, the free offers of salvation, and the promise of thy Spirit to make us partakers of its blessings and benefits. Give us to feel our need of a Saviour; show us more and more our danger and guilt apart from Christ; send forth thy Spirit into our hearts, and may he take of the things that are Christ's and show them unto our souls; and may the gospel become unto us the power of God and the wisdom of God unto salvation. Forbid that any of us should be deceiving ourselves by a mere profession of attachment to Christ, that any of us should be resting satisfied with a form of godliness while destitute of the power, with a name to live while the spirit is really dead; but may we be the Lord's disciples in deed and in truth. Give us that faith which worketh by love, which purifieth the heart, and overcometh the world. Shed abroad thy love in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost given unto us. In all our intercourse with the world, may it animate our whole conduct, and pervade all our thoughts, and words, and actions, leading us to follow after holiness, and righteousness, and truth, even after those things which are well-pleasing in thy sight. Make us living epistles of Christ, known and read of all men, whilst we wait for thy Son from heaven, whom thou didst raise from the dead, even Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come. Pardon, most merciful God, the iniquities of the past day, our forgetfulness of thee, our indifference to the things which concern our everlasting peace. We ever stand in need of the cleansing efficacy of the blood of Jesus, wash us in it from every defilement, and cover us with the perfect righteousness of Christ. Watch over us this night, as thou hast done in the days and nights that are past, and over all who are near and dear unto us, wherever they are. Let thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health amongst all the nations. Let the people praise thee, O Lord, yea, let all the people praise thee. Pardon our unworthiness, send us thy blessing from on high, and accept us graciously, for the sake of Jehovah our righteousness. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XVII.

THOU art the omniscient and the heart-searching God. All things are naked and open before thee. Thou settest our iniquities before thee—our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. Help us, therefore, to approach thy throne of grace with the deepest humility, and with that sense of our own unworthiness which becomes us as transgressors of thy holy law. Our consciences do testify against us—our own hearts condemn us, and thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. We can plead nothing in ourselves, O righteous God, in extenuation of our guilt; but we rejoice that the blood

of Jesus cleanseth from all sin, and by looking unto the Lamb that was slain, may every iniquity which stands against us be blotted out from the book of thy remembrance; may we attain that peace which passeth all understanding, which the world can neither give nor take away. We know from thy word, and we feel in our own experience, that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. We know from thy word, and we feel in our own experience, that he who trusteth in his own heart is a fool. O create in us clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us. Take away the hard and stony hearts out of our flesh, and give us hearts of flesh. Put thy Spirit within us, to dwell and abide in our hearts. Keep us ever distrustful of ourselves, and strong in thy promised strength, that we may run and not be weary, that we may walk and not faint. Save us from putting our trust in any created thing, but may the eternal God be our refuge, and receiving out of the fulness that is treasured up in Christ, those supplies of grace of which we stand in need, may we become fruitful trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that thou mayest be glorified. Let the same mind be in us which was also in Christ. May we not be ashamed of him or of his cause; but may we be enabled to stand forth as witnesses to the power, and grace, and glory of the Redeemer. Let the kingdom of satan be destroyed, let thy name be hallowed, let thy sabbath be sanctified, let the kingdom of Christ be built up and established. Put an end to the reign of ignorance, of superstition, of vice, and idolatry, and may the time soon come when pure incense and offering shall be presented unto thee, from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof. Bless all whom we ought to remember before thee; be gracious to our friends, reward our benefactors, forgive our enemies. Keep us this day from the evil that is in the world. May we regard each day as a day in connection with eternity. And the Lord preserve our going out and our coming in from this time forth, even for evermore. Hear us from thy holy sanctuary, and take away all our sins, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—1 THESSALONIANS II.

O LORD, thou hast brought us in safety to the close of another day, and we would desire to give praise and thanks unto thy name. We come not into thy presence trusting in anything which we possess. We have no holiness of our own to recommend us unto thee; we have no righteousness of our own to justify us in thy sight; we have no wisdom of our own to guide us; we have no strength of our own to enable us to serve thee; but we rejoice that all these are treasured up in Christ Jesus, and that we are invited to ask and we shall receive, to seek, and we shall find; to knock, and it shall be opened unto us. We are not straitened in thee the Lord. May we not be straitened in ourselves. Thou hast invited us to ask for great things,

and we would now desire to do so. We pray for the pardon of all our sins; we pray for thy Spirit, as the greatest of those gifts which Christ procured for his believing people. May he lead and guide us into all truth, and make us the followers of Christ through good report and through evil report. If thou in mercy hast given to any of us to taste and see that the Lord is gracious; if thou hast enabled us in any measure to glory in the cross of Christ, and to give evidence of the divine life begun in our souls, carry on thy good work, perfect that which concerneth us. Enable us to labor, as far as our influence extends, for the advancement of thy kingdom; and may the whole earth be filled with the glory of the Lord. Bless thy ministering servants everywhere. Make them workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Be especially gracious to him whose ministrations we enjoy. May his own soul be abundantly enriched with the treasures of thy grace; speaking the truth in love, may we re-receive the word at his mouth, not as the word of man, but as the word of God, which effectually worketh in them that believe. Lord, grant that he may have many amongst us as his joy and crown of rejoicing in the presence of Jesus Christ at his coming. Prosper and extend thy church. Convince the careless, convert the unconverted, and stablish and strengthen thine own people. Sanctify afflictions to the afflicted. Raise up the bowed down. Comfort those who mourn in Zion. Draw near unto those who are drawing near unto death. Pardon for Christ's sake wherein we have offended against thee during the past day, for in all things we offend and come short of thy glory. We commend ourselves, and all whom we ought to remember before thee, to thy care and keeping this night. Thou Shepherd of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, preserve us from all evil. Whether we live, may we live unto the Lord; whether we die, may we die unto the Lord. Whether living or dying, may we be wholly thine. All that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Christ Jesus, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, be glory forever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XXVII.

O LORD our God, we bow before thee in humble adoration of thy greatness and holiness, and the glorious honor of thy majesty. We unite in blessing thee as the author of all our mercies, the giver of every good and perfect gift, and we renew our supplications in the name of Jesus, the Lord our righteousness, that thou wouldst be merciful to us and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us, and give us peace. Holy Father! we own our utter unworthiness of the least of thy favors; we are a people laden with iniquity, an unthankful, a rebellious people. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one of us to his own way. But assured be thy mercy, thou hast not cast us off; thou hast done great things for us,

whereof we are glad. Thou hast sent the good Shepherd to seek and to save us, and hast laid upon him the iniquity of us all; and him who knew no sin thou hast made sin for us, that he might bring us to thee. O may we all be brought back to thee. May he come after us into the wilderness until he find us; and when he hath found us, may he lay us on his shoulders rejoicing, and carry us back to the fold. May we live through his death, may we be accepted through his righteousness, may we be blessed with his love, may we be defended by his power, and restrained from wandering by his grace; and may we at last be brought to his heavenly fold. And do thou grant unto us, O God of all grace, the character of Christ's sheep, as well as their privileges. May we hear his voice, may we follow his footsteps, may we flee from the stranger. Cleanse us, O Lord, from all our pollutions. Free us of the stain of sin, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost, and make us meet to join that holy and beautiful flock above, which the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, feedeth and leadeth unto living fountains of waters, and from whose eyes thou wipest all tears away. We bless thee, O Lord, for the pastors whom thou hast appointed to feed the church which Christ has purchased with his own blood, and we earnestly beseech thee to give them all grace to be faithful and successful in their solemn work. May they stand in thy counsel, and cause the people to hear thy words, that thus they may turn them from their evil ways. We pray more especially for the pastor whom thou hast set over ourselves. May he be a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost. Let the word of Christ dwell in him richly in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, and may he be enabled rightly and wisely to divide it both to the sheep and lambs of thy flock. And be thou thyself, O Saviour, the Shepherd of his flock. Seek that which is lost, bring again that which is driven away, bind up that which is broken, and strengthen that which is sick. Feed them in a good pasture, and let them lie in a good fold. And cause the shower to come down in his season; yea, let these be showers of blessing. We acknowledge thy goodness, O Lord, in sparing us to see this new day; we commend ourselves to thy grace ere we enter upon its business, and feel the power of its temptations. O keep our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death; and enable us to glorify thee in our bodies and spirits which are thine. We invoke thy blessing upon our kindred and friends, and we entreat thee to be their Father as well as our Father, their God as well as our God. And now may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—1 THESSALONIANS III.

ALMIGHTY Father! we would anew draw near to thy footstool with one accord. O enable us to commune with thee in spirit and in truth; and may all the day's anxieties and vanities be banished from our thoughts, that we may wait upon thee without distraction. We approach thy throne, O Lord, in the new and living way which thou hast opened up for us in the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and through him we present unto thee our worship, so polluted and unworthy. Incline thine ear unto us, O God, for his sake, and remember us with the love thou bearest to thy people. We adore thy greatness, which is unsearchable, and acknowledge our own insignificance in thy sight. Holy, holy, holy, art thou, Lord God Almighty; just and true art thou, O thou King of saints; but we are all as an unclean thing, and our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away. We would lie low before thee, we would cast away all high thoughts and proud imaginations, we would cry out, God be merciful to us sinners! If thou wert strict to mark iniquity, who, O Lord, could stand? But do thou justify us freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Magnify the riches of thy grace in us. Make us the monuments of thy sovereign mercy. Thanks, everlasting thanks be unto thee, for thine unspeakable gift Christ Jesus, and for the new covenant which thou hast sealed with his blood, and made known to us by his gospel. Lord! we flee to this refuge, we plead the promise of this covenant, and the preciousness of that blood, and we beseech thee, according to thy sure word, be merciful to our unrighteousness; our sins and our iniquities remember no more. Put thy laws into our minds, and write them in our hearts. Be unto us a God, and make us unto thee a people. If thou hast begun a good work in us, O do thou carry it on and perfect it, for it is thou only who canst work in us both to will and to do. Stir us up by the Spirit of life to imitate the example of the first believers. Cause us to abound like them in the work of faith, the labor of love, and the patience of hope. Let the Holy Ghost work in us mightily. May he increase our faith, stablish, strengthen, settle it in our hearts, give it the mastery in our souls, and the victory over all our temptations. And may he cause us to increase and abound in love one toward another and toward all men, to the end he may stablish our hearts unblamable in holiness before thee, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. We pray, O Lord, for the good estate of the church of the Redeemer on earth. O heal its painful divisions, increase its zeal for thy glory, and extend its limits more and more on every side. Animate its ministers with the spirit of the apostles, and adorn its members with primitive faith and charity. Giver of all good, we bless thee for the mercies of the past day. It is thou who fillest our mouths with good things, and inspirest our hearts with gladness. Continue to bless us as a family. May we all be numbered with the household of faith. Watch at our pillows this

night, O thou keeper of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, and open our eyelids to behold the light of another day. May all our days and nights be spent in thy favor; and at last may we all come to thine eternal joy, through Jesus our only Mediator. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XXV.

WE come before thee, O our God, in the multitude of thy tender mercies, and would call upon all that is within us fervently to bless thee for all thy loving-kindnesses. How precious are thy thoughts towards us, O God; how great is the sum of them! If we should reckon them up, they are more than can be numbered. We bless thee above all for thy dealings towards our souls; for the inestimable gift of the Lord Jesus Christ; and for all the spiritual privileges which thou hast vouchsafed to us through him. Thou hast been drawing us unto thee by the bonds of love, thou hast borne long with us, thou hast multiplied thy calls and invitations, and to us, as to Israel of old, thou hast given line upon line, and precept upon precept. But like Israel too, O Lord, thou knowest we have been stiff-necked and rebellious, and we have refused to turn to thee with full purpose of heart. But O do thou turn us, and we shall be turned. Thou art the Lord our God. Let the exalted Redeemer give unto us repentance and remission of sins. Let the Spirit of Christ reveal to us the love and the holiness of the cross, that we may be filled with grief and hatred of sin; and, apprehending thy mercy in Christ Jesus, may turn unto thee, to walk before thee in righteousness all the rest of our days. O heal our backslidings, love us freely, and receive us graciously; through the stripes of Jesus may we be healed. Let his dying love overcome our enmity, let his Spirit give us light and life, holiness and comfort; and now at length after all our slowness and backwardness of heart, may we be happily joined unto the Lord in the bonds of an everlasting covenant; and hereafter grow in grace and meetness for the inheritance of the saints. Lord! thou hast been reminding us from thy word that thou art the governor among the nations, and that it is only truth and righteousness that preserves and exalts a people. We adore thee as the supreme Disposer of the destinies of our own land. Avert from it, we beseech thee, thy merited judgments, and cast not its crown and glory down to the ground. Pour out upon us the spirit of national repentance, and of public zeal for thy truth and honor. Let thy name be hallowed, let thy will be done among us as it is in heaven. Restrain our backslidings, arrest the progress of infidelity and superstition; reform, and purify, and extend the churches which thou hast planted among us more and more; and bless the labors of all thy ministers and people to diffuse the gospel of Christ, and revive the power of godliness throughout the land. We thank thee, O Lord, for the repose of the past night, and for the gladsome light of a new

day. Enable us to walk in thy fear all this day long, and may we be strong in the grace of our Lord Jesus, to resist temptation, to fight the good fight of faith, and to perform whatsoever things are just, and true, and pure, and honest, and lovely, and of good report. Let thy blessing rest upon us as a family, and upon all who are dear to us, wherever they are. Knit our hearts together in the bonds of faith and love, and unite us all at last in the enjoyment of thy heavenly kingdom. We ask all in the name of Christ Jesus our Advocate, whom thou hearest always. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—1 THESSALONIANS IV.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all grace! we bless thee for the free access we have to thy throne through the mediation of Jesus, and for the precious promises which thou hast given us to encourage us always to pray and not to faint. Blessed be thy name that thy love is freely proffered to us anew in Christ Jesus. The wages of sin is death, but thy free gift to us is eternal life through him. Thou hast laid the burden of our guilt upon him. Thou hast redeemed us from the curse of the law by making him a curse for us; and in him art thou reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. O do thou reconcile us. May we be at peace with thee through the blood of the cross. Forbid that any of us should continue strangers and foreigners; may we all be fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. Give us, O Lord, the faith of thy people, that we may experience the joy and peace of believing, and that thy abundant grace may redound by our thanksgivings to thine own glory. We bless thee for the instructions and admonitions of thy holy word. Seal upon our minds the portion which has now been read. Let our walk as a family be according to thy will, and the commandments of the Lord Jesus. May we follow after holiness, without which no man shall see thee. The Lord make us to increase and abound in love, and in the hour of domestic trial and sorrow, may we enjoy the consolations of thy grace, and be sustained by the blessed hope set before us. May we all be numbered with those who love the Lord's second appearing. May this glorious hope regulate and sanctify our whole spirit and conversation; and as thou hast united us together on earth by the nearest and dearest ties, so may we be eternally united in the presence of the glorified Redeemer. Yea, Lord, do thou count us worthy of this high calling, and meanwhile fulfil all the good pleasure of thy goodness in us, and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, we would review with grateful hearts all thy goodness and mercy to us during the past week. Truly we are not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truths which thou hast made

to pass before us. Blot out all the week's transgressions, and crown with thy blessing all its labors. We rejoice in the prospect of another sabbath. Fulfil our hope, say unto us again, Go ye up to the house of the Lord, and bless abundantly to our souls the provision of Zion. We commend to thy grace all the ambassadors of Christ. May they come forth on the morrow in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel. May their preaching be with power, and let thy word have her course, and be glorified in the conversion of sinners, and the edification of saints. Lord, all our desire is before thee. Deal bountifully with thy servants, for the sake of him in whom thou art ever well pleased, and in whose words we sum up all our petitions, Our Father, &c.



Forty-First Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS CXVI. CXVII.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we would approach thee, on this the morning of thine own day, in a filial spirit, laying hold of thee as a Father. Help us to pray, and hear us when we cry unto thee. O Lord, we acknowledge our dependence on thee for the bestowal and the continuance of every blessing. Enable us to walk before thee in the land of the living. We are dwelling in a world sunk in ungodliness. We are surrounded by many enemies. We are exposed to innumerable snares. We feel that if our footing is to be maintained as the followers of the Lamb, it can only be in the strength of divine grace; and that we can only advance onwards towards higher measures of spiritual attainment by the powerful leading of thy Spirit. We have had experience of our weakness; and we do earnestly beseech thee, O thou God of all grace, to pour out thy Spirit upon us from on high; to revive thy work in our souls; to quicken, strengthen, and to comfort us; to fit us for every duty; to support us under every trial; to deliver us from every enemy; and, finally, to make us more than conquerors through him that loved us. Keep us in thy fear, for the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to deliver from the snares of death. We would take encouragement, O Lord, from what thou hast told us concerning thyself in thy word, and concerning thy dealings with thy chosen. Hast thou not established forever thy covenant of life and peace? Hast thou not written in thy book many glorious promises, whereon thou hast caused us to rest? Art thou not that God who didst lead thy people, like a flock, by the hands of Moses and Aaron? Who didst bear them as on eagles' wings; who didst bear them and carry them

all the days of old? Art thou not he in whom David trusted, and who didst send an answer to his prayers? Yea, thou art the same God now that thou wert of old, faithful to all thy promises, true to all thy threatenings, keeping thy people as the apple of thine eye, that thou mightest make unto thyself a glorious name. We will trust in thee in whom our fathers trusted. We will pray to thee, the prayer-hearing God. Answer us in peace. Be with all the ministers of the everlasting gospel this day. May they preach thy word boldly, and without fear. May they feed thy lambs. May they feed thy sheep. Give efficacy to the word of thy grace. Dwell in all the assemblies of thy saints. Comfort and bless thy people. Be with us when we go into thy house and pay our vows. May we offer unto thee the sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise. May we worship thee in spirit and in truth. Wash away all our sins in a Redeemer's blood. Cleanse us, and we shall be whiter than snow. And may these, the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our hearts, find acceptance with thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CXVIII.

O LORD God, we would approach thee in the Son of thy love. Who is a God like unto thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, excellent in working. Thou art Jehovah, God over all, blessed forever. We would approach thee on the evening of thine own day, believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee; believing that thy mercy endureth forever, and that thou art girt about with truth and faithfulness. We thank thee for the mercies of this day, for the ordinances of thy house, for all that we have heard and tasted of the good word of life; and we pray that an abundant blessing from on high may have accompanied the dispensation of word and ordinance. Blessed be the Lord, who hath caused the day-spring from on high to visit us; who hath reconciled us to himself through the blood of the cross, and who giveth us the hope of eternal life. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. O that we may be enabled to estimate its value; and that, under a deep sense of the guilt of sin, we may be led to flee for refuge to the hope set before us in the gospel. May it not be in vain that from sabbath to sabbath we hear the word of this salvation preached. May it not be in vain that our lot has been cast in a land of ordinances. Forbid that our hearts should be hardening amid the means of life. Forbid that it should be our condemnation that light hath entered into the world; and we have loved the darkness rather than the light, because our deeds are evil. May the seed this day sown take deep root in our hearts; and may the fruit be unto holiness, and the end life everlasting. We lament that our progress in the divine life is so little in proportion to our privileges; and our prayer is, that we may be made more in earnest about our souls, more con-

formed to thine image, more devoted to thy service, so that the close of every succeeding sabbath may find us advancing in every spiritual attainment, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. Blot out our sins. Teach us how aggravated they are. Forgive the iniquity of our holy things. We have to confess, that after having done all we are unprofitable servants. Take us under thy care throughout this night. May we lie down in thy fear. May no evil thing come near us. And grant that when we again mingle in the world, it may be in the spirit of those who have been with thee on the mount. Bless the sick and destitute, the poor and afflicted, and especially the dying. Hear, and answer, and accept in Jesus, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XXIX.

O THOU ever-blessed God, we would approach thee this morning in faith, believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of all them that diligently seek thee. Do thou hear and answer us in the Son of thy love. O Lord, we are sinners exceedingly in thy sight. We are full of shortcoming. We are full of iniquity. Our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. We do acknowledge, with grief and self-abasement, that we have been transgressors from the womb, and that thou mightest justly have visited us in judgment, and stained all thy raiment with our blood. Our great sin, O God, has been, that we have neglected and despised the gospel. This is the condemnation, that light hath come into the world, and we have loved darkness rather than light, because our deeds have been evil. A deceived heart hath led us aside. Lord, change our hearts. Give us a new heart, and create a right spirit within us. Wash us in the blood of atonement, and purge away all our sin. Give us that delightful confidence in thee, which, by the Spirit, is begotten in the heart. Give us the sweet sense of forgiveness, the blessedness of the man whose iniquity is pardoned, whose sin is covered. Give us the spirit of adoption, whereby we shall be enabled to cry, Abba, Father, and to hold fast the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. We lament that we have experienced so little of the enlargement of the gospel. Pour out upon us the spirit of prayer and of supplication. May we be enabled to make known all our wants to thee. May we seek thee with all our hearts, that we may find thee according to the promise. May we ever remember that thou art a God of truth, that thou hatest iniquity, and that liars are an abomination in thy sight. Lord, do thou accompany with thy rich blessing all the exercises in which thy people have been engaged on the past sabbath. May the fruit be unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. May thy people have been fitted and prepared thereby for all thy will. Grant, O God that we may be enabled on the strength

of that meat to go many days. We have been with thee upon the mount. We are now about to go down again into the world. May we carry with us the savor of divine things. May our faces shine like theirs who have been upon the mount with God. May we have grace given us so to act, in all our intercourse with our fellow-men, that they will be constrained to take notice of us that we have been with Jesus. Deliver us from a worldly spirit. Save us from the evil that is in the world. Save us from the evil that is in our own heart. Lord, let thy way be known in all the earth, thy saving health among all nations. Hasten that happy time when the heathen will be given to the Son for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. Bless each of us before thee. Hear our prayer, and when thou hearest, do thou answer and forgive, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—1 THESSALONIANS V.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, enable us to worship thee in spirit and in truth, and to come into thy presence with the trust and the confidence of thy children. We come to thee at the close of another day, beseeching thee to grant us thy fatherly forgiveness, and to accept of us in Jesus. We look back upon this day, and we see much on account of which we are ashamed in thy sight; much on account of which we ought to be deeply grieved; much unfaithfulness and sin. Pour out upon us the spirit of a true repentance. Enable us to look unto him whom we have pierced, and to mourn. We have to confess this night, that at the best we are unprofitable servants, and we have no hope of pardon or acceptance except in him who is all our salvation and all our desire. O that we knew and felt more of the plague of our own hearts; that we were brought to a more full and intimate knowledge of all their deceitfulness and all their vileness; that we were led to see how full they are of everything that is dishonoring to God, so that we might feel more our need of the Spirit, and our need of Christ. We have this day had experience of the evil heart that is in us. How have we been carried away by the world! How have we indulged in the polluted and vain imagination of our hearts! How have we forgotten the God that made us, and lightly esteemed the Rock of our salvation! Lord, our place is in the lowest dust; and we can only say before thee, Unclean, unclean; God be merciful unto us sinners. Almighty Father, do thou carry home to our hearts those precious truths which we have now been reading from thy word. May they be impressed upon us by the Spirit, so that we may experience all their realizing power. May we not sleep as do others. Lord, how unutterably dread is the sleep of that soul which is sunk in darkness and insensibility! Permit us not to sink into such a state. Awaken us to prayer, and to the love of thyself. Quicken us that we may call

upon thy name. Make us active and devoted in the ways of righteousness and peace, walking in the footsteps of the blessed Jesus. May we ever remember the coming of the Lord. Behold thou comest quickly. Thou comest with clouds; thou comest for judgment. The Lord is at hand. May we live every day in the realization of this. May it animate us in every duty. May the thought live every day in our hearts, that the Lord cometh; and may we be upheld and comforted by the thought, that when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, we also shall appear with him in glory. In that great and dreadful day, may all here present meet thee, not as an avenging Judge, but as a reconciled Father. We would lie down this night in the faith of this great truth, as those who know not what a day or an hour may bring forth; and we would repose our souls upon the finished work and the all-prevailing intercession of the Lord our Redeemer. Bless all our dear friends, and all connected with us, by whatever tie. Look in mercy upon the poor and the afflicted. Hear the prayer of the destitute. Draw near to those who are drawing nigh to death. And may these the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, find acceptance before thee, through Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XXXI.

O God, we come unto thee believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of them who diligently seek thee; surely it is good for us to draw near unto God. But how shall we, sinful dust and ashes, take upon us to speak unto thee in whose sight the heavens are not clean, and who chargest thine angels with folly? How good and gracious art thou to bear with us so much and so long, and not to have dealt with us as we have sinned, nor requited us according to our deserts, but hast mercifully spared us, and waited on us to do us good; condescending even to treat with us by means of thy word, Spirit, and providence, to bring us to an affecting sense of the evil of our character, and danger of our situation, and persuade us to turn and live. But, alas! we have not listened to thy calls and counsels as we ought; we have been refractory and unsubmitive under those chastenings which were designed and calculated for our good. As moral Governor of the world, who lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity, transgression of thy law, and rebellion against thy authority, cannot, shall not pass unpunished. But we know that thou hast no pleasure in afflicting or grieving the children of men. It is we who are the authors and procurers of all the evils we suffer, and when thou chastenest, it is for our profit. For, sustaining the near and endearing relation of a Father, thou hast the compassionate regards and sympathies of an affectionate parent, and we are persuaded that thou art willing to receive into thy favor and forgiveness the returning, however prodigal, son; there is forgiveness with thee, that

thou mayest be feared. Hast thou not said, Come and let us reason together, and though your sins be as crimson and scarlet, they shall be as snow and as wool. Return ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. May the reply of our hearts be, Behold we come unto thee, for thou art the Lord our God. We thank thee for the new covenant dispensation of great and precious promises, under which we have the happiness to live. May we be enabled suitably to value the high and holy privileges which we enjoy, and gladly to avail ourselves of such inestimable blessings so freely proffered. May we be all taught of thee, who teacheth savingly and to profit, that our minds may be suitably instructed, impressed, and improved. May we all know thee, so as to love and delight ourselves in thee, and love thy law which is holy, just, and good, and in the keeping of which there is so great a reward. Vouchsafe to be our God, and make us all thy people, whose habitual aim and endeavor it is to conduct ourselves in some measure worthy of thee, and as children of so many mercies. Inscribe thy law upon our minds, that it may be the master principle of action in and rule of our life. Be merciful to our unrighteousness, and in whatever we daily come short of thy glory, and our duty; our sins and iniquities remember no more. Let goodness and mercy continue to follow us all the days of our life, and may our dwelling at last be in thy house eternal in the heavens, for all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of our Mediator and High Priest, whom thou hearest always. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—2 THESSALONIANS I.

MOST great and gracious God, we thy guilty polluted children of the dust, are taking upon us to speak unto thee the Most High, whom we have so often and grievously offended. We do bless thee that thou hast not dealt with us as we have sinned, nor requited our ill; but in the midst of deserved wrath hast remembered us with undeserved mercy. Truly it is of the Lord's mercies that we have not been consumed, and how much more that we enjoy all things pertaining to life and godliness? We thank thee for the means of grace, and that our season of merciful visitation is still prolonged, that a Saviour mighty, and willing as mighty to save, has been provided for us, and is presented to us in the gospel; that we are not only permitted, but exhorted and urged to come to him and be saved. May we be persuaded and enabled cordially to receive him whom thou hast sent to seek and save us; and willingly yield up ourselves to his saving offices and influences, as desirous to be saved from the love and service of sin now, as from its penal consequences hereafter. May it be given us in behalf of Christ to believe on his name, and may our faith evince its genuineness and power, by growing exceedingly, and effectually working in us grateful returns of love to him who first loved us, and by abounding in all the char-

ities of life to one another. We have great reason to be thankful that we are not subjected to sore privations and persecutions, as many of thy people have been, on account of our religious profession; but may avow our adherence and allegiance to thee, and worship thee according to our consciences, and none to make us afraid. May the blessings of religious liberty, which we so happily enjoy, be long continued in this our native country, and be speedily extended over the world. But as we may not expect exemption from troubles and trials as they may be needful for us, grant that we may be suitably exercised under them, so that they may yield to us the peaceable fruits of righteousness. May our faith in the wisdom and goodness of him who appoints them, enable us not only humbly to submit to, but acquiesce in them, and to bear them with meekness and patience, as the chastening of an affectionate parent for our good, who does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men. We rejoice in thy paternal government, that nothing does or can happen to us without thy knowledge, permission, or appointment; and that when thou shalt judge the world in righteousness, thou wilt rectify the apparently unequal allotments of thy dispensations here, when it will be manifest that thou hast done all things wisely and well. May our minds be suitably solemnized with the awful prospect of the glorious coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to judgment, and our appearing before him to receive our everlasting award, according to our characters and works here. God forbid that we, who enjoy such superior advantages now, should not know thee the true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent; should not now fully comply with all thy gracious calls and counsels addressed to us by the gospel, and so at last be punished with everlasting destruction from thy blissful presence. But believing the grand and supremely interesting truths respecting Jesus Christ testified in the gospel, being united and assimilated to him now, may we be of the happy number of those in that day, in whom his divine workmanship and image shall be gloriously manifested, and celebrated by all the heavenly hosts, as trophies to the praise and glory of his grace, and admired and praised by us as all our salvation, and all our desire. May God give us suitable worthiness and meetness for this inheritance of the saints in light, the object and hope of our high and holy calling, and fulfil in us the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power, that Christ may now be more and more honored by us, and we by him. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XXXIII.

GREAT fear is due unto thee, O God, in the meetings of thy saints, and thou art to be held in reverence of all them that would acceptably approach thee. May we have grace wherewith to serve thee. For as we are unworthy to come into thy presence at all, we feel

utterly unequal to order our thoughts and speech aright, and to commune with thee on our most momentous interests, which involve our present peace and everlasting welfare. Be pleased to vouchsafe us the promised aid of the Spirit of grace and of supplication, to help our infirmities, to teach us what things to pray for, and to give us a proper frame of spirit with which to ask them. In thee compassions flow. Hadst thou delighted in the destruction of sinners, hadst thou been unwilling to save, thou wouldst not have provided such a ransom to deliver them from the lowest hell; thou wouldst not still continue to wait on us to be gracious, and even to beseech us to be reconciled unto thee. We have no reason to suspect thy willingness to save; but we have great cause to fear lest we come short of salvation through the unbelief and impenitence of our own hearts. Preserve us from deceiving ourselves with a name to live, while we are dead; from saying peace, peace, to ourselves, when thou sayest there is no peace; from imagining ourselves safe, though in imminent peril. Save us from listening to the enticing temptations of the world; from yielding to the corrupt inclinations of our own evil hearts, and from being led captive or astray by our spiritual enemies; and above all, save us from the fearful guilt and irreparable doom of self-destruction. But however great our spiritual destitution, and imminent our danger from without and within, we bless thee that our cause is not yet desperate, that we are still in the land of the living and place of hope. Thou hast laid our help on one who is mighty to save; and being commanded to look to him alone for salvation, we feel warranted to call and claim him Jehovah our Righteousness, to say, In the Lord I have righteousness and strength. May a sense of our infinite obligations to our redeeming God and Saviour constrain us to returns of grateful love and duty; and may his grace, that bringeth salvation, so conspicuously manifested in the gospel, teach us effectually to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. Wherein soever we are called, may it be our earnest desire and study therein to abide with God. Conscientious and faithful in the discharge of the duties of the several stations and relations in life, may we make our light so to shine, that others, seeing our good works, may be won to glorify thee our Father in heaven. May thy great name be hallowed, and the kingdom and reign of the Redeemer be speedily extended and established over the whole earth. May the means for widely diffusing the light and influence of the truth as it is in Jesus, be multiplied and blessed with abundant success. We rejoice in the bright and happy prospects which yet await thine ancient people the Jews, in the latter days. We thank thee for the sympathy and interest excited, and the exertions put forth on their behalf, throughout the churches. Rend the veil of ignorance and prejudice that is upon their mind, that they may see and be convinced that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the true Messiah, and that it is vain for them to look for another, seeing there is no other name given under heaven whereby we can be saved. Hear the prayers that are daily offered up for their conversion to the faith of Christ, and restoration to the land of their fathers, that with the

fulness of the Gentiles they may constitute one great fold, under the chief Shepherd and Bishop of souls. May thy work prosper and prevail more among ourselves, especially in our own souls, and in all who are near and dear to us. May we become wiser and better daily, more fit for living, ready for dying, and meet for thy heavenly kingdom. And all we ask is in the name and for the sake of him whom thou hearest always. Amen

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—2 THESSALONIANS II.

O GOD, how awfully great art thou, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. We thank thee that, in despite of all opposition, thou hast in every age a seed to serve thee; that thy sanctuary is with men, and thy church founded on a rock, against which the gates of hell cannot prevail. Many times, and in various ways, have enemies afflicted her from her youth, but have not prevailed, for thou, who art mighty to save, wert in the midst of her. Even in the great defection from the faith and purity of the gospel, which has so much and so long injured the interests, and marred the beauty of thy church, thou didst not leave thyself without a witness to display a banner in behalf of the truth. And now, O Lord, as we have seen the rise and reign of this mystery of iniquity, as foretold in the word, may our faith be yet farther confirmed, if it please thee, by increasing tokens of its speedy decline and ruin. May the light of the glorious gospel of thy Son soon scatter the shades of ignorance, error, and superstition, which have so long shed such a baleful influence over so large a portion of the earth. May the Spirit of thy mouth, by the gospel preached in purity and power, more and more convince men of the evil and danger of departing from thee, from that only rule of faith and life which thou hast given us, listening to the traditions and commandments of fallible men. May the time to favor Zion soon come, when thou wilt appear in thy glory, to the purification and extension of thy church, and the signal destruction of the man of sin. Preserve us from all dislike or indifference to any portion of that truth which is able to save our souls, or from holding the truth in unrighteousness; that we may be kept from being ensnared or enslaved by the craft and malice of evil spirits, and being judicially given up by thee to self-deception, and to the fearful delusion of believing and embracing lies to our destruction. Save us from the condemnation of loving darkness rather than the light; from not believing the truth, but having pleasure in unrighteousness. May our experience of the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit on our hearts, through belief of the truth, afford the satisfying and cheering evidence that we are beloved and chosen of thee to share in the glory of Christ, to which we are now called by his gospel, and for which we can never enough feel too grateful. Having this witness in ourselves, and such a good hope through

grace, may we be strengthened and encouraged to stand fast wherein we have attained, and keep in mind and memory realizing impressions of the instructions we have received of divine things. And may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, who hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort our hearts, and establish us in every good word and work. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XXXV.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we would unite together in acknowledging, with grateful hearts, thy watchful care and thy paternal kindness towards us, thine unworthy children. Thou art the Father of our spirits, the former of our bodies, and the giver of every good and perfect gift. Thou hast bestowed upon us many temporal and spiritual blessings. Thou hast liberally supplied our daily returning wants. Thou hast preserved us from danger. Thou hast delivered us out of temptation, and guided us in difficulty, and comforted us in sorrow. And when we look back on all the way by which thou hast led us, we may truly say that goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. But, O Lord, we must confess, with shame and sorrow, that though thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, yet we have rebelled against thee. We have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are no more worthy to be called thy children. We have not cherished toward thee those sentiments of filial reverence and love, nor rendered unto thee that filial obedience which are due to our kind and beneficent Father in heaven. And though thou hast often spoken to us in the holy scriptures, not only by thy servants the prophets, but also by thine own Son; though thou hast warned us by the terrors of the law, and hast besought us by the still small voice of the gospel, and by the striving of thy Holy Spirit, to turn unto thee and live; yet, O Lord, we must confess that we have refused to obey thy voice speaking to us from heaven. O do thou awaken us all to a just sense of our guilt. Give unto each of us that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation; and lead us, in the exercise of a lively faith, to that fountain which has been opened for sin and uncleanness, so that we may be washed, and sanctified, and justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. O God, be merciful unto us, and bless us. Cause thy face to shine upon us, and we shall be saved. May we be cleansed from all our sins in the atoning blood of Christ. May we be clothed with his perfect righteousness, so that we may be accepted in the Beloved, and may enjoy the peace of God, which passeth understanding. Deliver us from a spirit of bondage, causing us again to fear; but grant us a spirit of adoption, whereby we shall cry, Abba, our Father. May the love of God be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost; and may our souls be

replenished with his saving grace and sanctifying influences, so that henceforth we may live as obedient children, and may walk steadfastly in the way that leadeth to everlasting life. Enable us to deny ourselves to all ungodliness and worldly lusts; to live as pilgrims and strangers upon the earth; and to prepare, by patient continuance in well-doing, for that better country which the Saviour is preparing for them that love him. O Lord, let thy kingdom come. Let thy will be done by us, and by all our fellow-creatures throughout the earth, even as it is done in heaven. Make known thy salvation, and show thy righteousness openly in the sight of the heathen. Have mercy on the sons and daughters of affliction. Hear their cry of distress, and send them the relief and consolation suited to their various circumstances. Be very gracious, O Lord, to our friends and relatives. Our heart's desire and prayer for them is, that they may be saved. Dwell in this family. Be thou the God of each member of it, and make us all thy people. Accept of our cordial thanksgivings for the mercies of the last night. Take us into thy holy protection this day; and be with us, to bless us and to do us good, both now and forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—2 THESSALONIANS III.

O LORD, thou hast commanded us to pray; and thou hast promised to teach us, by thy Holy Spirit, how to pray, and what to pray for. And in obedience to thy command, and trusting in thy promise, we would this evening come to thy throne of grace to make known our wants and our requests to the hearer of prayer. O Lord, hear the voice of our supplication when we cry unto thee, when we lift up our hands toward thy holy oracle. Let our prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. We would adore thee, O God, as the first and the last, as the fountain of all existence, and the sum of all excellence, and the giver of all true happiness. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, thou didst exist, in the solitude and silence of a past eternity, clothed with light as with a garment. And though the works of thy hands are ever changing, yet thou the Lord changest not; thou wilt continue the same, in glory and blessedness, throughout eternal ages. O Lord our God, thou art exceeding great. Who can by searching find out God? Who can find out the Almighty unto perfection? Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain unto it. But, O Lord, we would bless thy name that thou hast revealed to us, in thy holy word, as much of thy character and will as is necessary for our guidance and salvation. We thank thee that as thou didst, at sundry times and in divers manners, make thyself known unto the fathers by the prophets, thou hast likewise spoken unto us by thine own Son, who is the brightness of thy glory,

and who, when he had ty himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. We thank thee for the inestimable privilege of a translated bible, by which we are enabled to read in our own tongue the wonderful works of God, and to understand what great things thou hast done for us through the atoning sacrifice and meritorious obedience of God manifest in the flesh. O that thy blessed word may have free course in our hearts. May it be quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, casting down all our high thoughts, and subduing us unto the obedience of faith. May thy word be glorified in us, and by us. May it be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. May we have faith to rest for salvation upon him of whom the scriptures testify. Feeling our ignorance, may we sit daily at the feet of Jesus, with an earnest desire to learn his word, and to know what the will of the Lord is. Feeling our guilt and sinfulness, may we rest all our hopes of pardon and eternal life on the atoning blood and perfect righteousness of our great High Priest. Feeling our weakness and waywardness, may we submit to the authority of the King of Zion. May he render us willing in the day of his power, and defend us from all our spiritual enemies, and rule over us by his word, and reign in our hearts by his Holy Spirit. O Lord, let thy word have free course among all the nations of the earth. May every obstacle to its progress be taken out of the way; and grant that many may run to and fro preaching the everlasting gospel, so that the knowledge of the Lord may be increased, and cover the earth as the waters cover the channel of the sea. Bless and encourage thy servants who have gone to preach among the heathen the unsearchable riches of Christ. May the Lord of the harvest send forth more laborers into his harvest. Bless all the faithful ministers of Christ, of every name and denomination. O Lord, revive thy work in our native land, and send us a time of refreshing from thy presence. Have compassion on the afflicted, spare useful lives, and prepare the dying for death. Be very gracious to all who are near and dear to us. Accept of our thanks for thy watchful care of us this day. Take us into thy holy protection during the night. Let no evil befall us. Let no plague come nigh our dwelling. Raise us up, if it be thy will, to behold the light of a new day; and when we awake, may we still be with thee. Hear us, O Lord, and send an answer of peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH XLIX.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, thou art greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about thee. Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God

Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. It becometh us, who are sinful dust and ashes, to adore, with reverence and godly fear, the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, who ruleth in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; whose Almighty hand none can stay from working, and to whom none can say, with a prevailing voice, What doest thou? But knowing that the Lord reigneth, therefore would we rejoice, because we know that all the dispensations of thy providence are holy, and just, and good, and shall not fail to promote thy glory, and the happiness of them that love thee. Almighty Father, we rejoice that, while righteousness and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, mercy and truth continually go before thy face. And we would especially rejoice, and give thee thanks, that thou didst devise a scheme of redemption for us, in which mercy and truth meet together, righteousness and peace embrace each other. We bless thy name, that the gospel of Jesus Christ, which secures glory to God in the highest, likewise proclaims peace and good-will to the guilty children of men, and shows us that thou art just, while the justifier of the ungodly who believe in Jesus. O may thy Holy Spirit dispose and enable us to receive the atonement of Christ by faith, and to rest upon this sure and tried foundation, that thus we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Forbid, O Lord, that there should be in any of us an evil heart of unbelief, leading us to doubt thy word, or to disbelieve thy promises, or to depart from the living God. May we be admonished by the judgments inflicted upon thine enemies, to forsake all iniquity, and to walk in the light of thy countenance, and in the way of thy commandments. And conscious of our own weakness, we humbly beseech thee to strengthen us with all might by thy Spirit, that so we may overcome the manifold temptations to which we are exposed in this present evil world, and may walk in close and humble fellowship with the Father of our spirits. Take us, O Lord, into thy holy keeping, and preserve us by thy mighty power through faith unto salvation. We desire to offer up our prayers and intercessions in behalf of all whom we ought to bear on our hearts at thy throne. Bless the church of Christ throughout the earth; and grant that, through the word of thy grace, many may be added unto it daily of such as shall be saved. Bless our native land, and all ranks and degrees of persons in it, from the least to the greatest. May pure and undefiled religion flourish more and more in our day. Command thy blessing upon our kindred and friends. Comfort and relieve all who are in affliction. Render us truly grateful unto thee for causing us to lie down in peace, and to awake this morning in safety. Keep us in thy fear all the day long, and help us to live as seeing thee, who art invisible. Graciously hear our prayers, and pardon our sins, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—1 TIMOTHY I.

O LORD, we are unworthy to come into thy presence, or even to lift up our eyes to thy holy habitation. Thou canst not look upon sin without abhorrence. Thou art a consuming fire to all the workers of iniquity. Thou hast declared to us in thy holy word that, even though we should keep the whole law, yet if we offend but in one point, we incur thy righteous displeasure. But, O Lord, which of thy commandments have we not broken? which of thy precepts have we not trampled under foot? which of thy mercies have we not despised? We have often sinned against thee in thought, and word, and deed; and have lived without God in the world; and have walked every one in the sight of his own eyes, and after the devices of his own evil heart. Nor can we plead that we have sinned in ignorance, and that we have had no opportunity of knowing our Lord's will. Thou hast cast our lot in a land, where the light of the gospel shines; thou hast given us thy holy word, from our childhood, to make us wise unto salvation; thou hast permitted us, sabbath after sabbath, to hear the joyful sound of heaven's offered mercy; thou hast given us line upon line, and precept upon precept; and thou hast sent forth thy Holy Spirit to strive with our obdurate and rebellious hearts. But, O Lord, we must confess that we have not improved our privileges, or walked worthy of our high and holy vocation; and, therefore, we would lay our hand upon our mouth, and our mouth in the dust, acknowledging that to us belongeth shame and confusion of face, and beseeching that God would be merciful to us sinners. O do thou give unto each of us that broken and contrite heart which thou wilt not despise; and wash us thoroughly in that blood of sprinkling which speaketh better things than the blood of Abel, which crieth not for vengeance, but for mercy, and which shall purge our consciences from dead works to serve the living God. We rejoice to know that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; and that there is no guilt so aggravated that he cannot remove it, and no heart so polluted that he cannot cleanse it, and no disease so inveterate that he cannot cure it. We would come, therefore, to this great Physician, beseeching him to heal our spiritual diseases, and to cleanse us from all our sins by his atoning blood, and to strengthen us by his Holy Spirit to serve thee, without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives. May we delight in the law of God after the inward man; may we have the same mind in us that was also in Christ Jesus; may we strive to follow his holy example, and to adorn his doctrine in all things. O Lord, send forth thy light and thy truth to those benighted nations who are still sitting in darkness, and in the region and shadow of death. Bless the preaching of the gospel, and all thy faithful ministers. Bless our beloved country; arrest the progress of infidelity, and superstition, and vice; may thy fear dwell in every heart, and may thy worship be established in every family. Bless the

church which thou hast planted in this corner of the land. Draw near with thy divine consolations, to all who are in trouble or distress. Be gracious to all with whom we are connected, by whatever bond. Pardon the sins which we have committed against thee this day. Watch over us during the silence of the coming night; and spare us, if it be thy will, to see the light of another day; for all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH I.

LORD, thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations, and thou hast ever shown that thou dost cause all things to work together for their good. Even when they did grievously provoke thee to anger, when they did break thy law, and disregard their covenant with thee; when they went after other gods, and did worship the dumb idols of the heathen nations; and when for all this thou didst, according to thy threatening, give them up to the sword of the enemy, and didst bring upon them the chains of the captive in a foreign land; yet, even there, thy pity did find them, and thy promises of reconciliation were renewed and fulfilled unto them. Thou didst still place thyself before them as their refuge and their strength, and thy voice of compassion unto them was still, Turn to the stronghold ye prisoners of hope; behold, I will render double unto you. Thou didst indeed show them that their Redeemer was strong, and that he was Lord of hosts, giving the conquest to whomsoever he would. For when the time to favor thy Zion was come, and when her children did turn their faces with contrition of heart towards thee, then didst thou take up the mighty nations, and the strongly fenced cities in which they did in captivity groan, and as a potter breaketh a vessel, so didst thou dash these nations in pieces, and set thy people free. Almighty God, we do trust, that we are part of thy heritage, that we are also of the commonwealth of Israel, and partakers of the promises made unto her. Thou hast still a Zion, and he who came in the likeness of our flesh, mighty to save, is still her king. O we do trust, that by his blood, we, notwithstanding all our backslidings and grievous provocations, may still return unto thee our God, and that we shall, through thy grace, be kept in covenant relation with thee. Alas! how often have we professed to seek thee with weeping and lamentation! How often have we, at thine altar, vowed that we did join ourselves unto thee in a covenant never again to be forgotten! And yet for all these solemn transactions with thee in our heart, and by the symbols of the blood of the new covenant, have we again gone after the idols, and the sins, and the vanities that we did renounce, and shown unto the world, thine enemy, that we pay not what we vow unto thee the living God. We beseech thee, heavenly Father! not to cast us off, because of these our iniquities. We beseech thee, for thine

own name's sake, to make us more steadfast unto our solemn engagements. We beseech thee, by thy Spirit, to unite us more closely unto our covenant Head; and to enable us with more constancy to follow him Zion-ward. May we be refreshed in our pilgrimage thither, by all the means of thy grace. May we be enabled to go on from strength to strength, till we all arrive in the new Jerusalem. May all enemies, temporal and spiritual, be confounded, that seek our halting; and may we this day encourage one another in the paths of righteousness. We thank thee for the mercies of the past night, for its refreshment of the body, and for its meditations to the soul in communion with thee. Lord, be with all thy people as they go forth to the work thou hast given them to do. Enable us to do all things for thy glory. And may thy blessing rest upon this household, according as thou hast promised in Christ Jesus. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—1 TIMOTHY II.

O LORD, thou hast made of one blood all the nations of the earth. We bless thee, that in the fulness of the time thou didst send thy Son, and didst give unto him a body of the seed of Abraham, which he offered up a sacrifice once for all, that he might bring in an everlasting righteousness, which should be unto and upon all them that believe. We thank thee, that when our first parents did give heed to the voice of the great deceiver of mankind; when they did ruin themselves and their posterity by breaking covenant with thee; when they had brought sin, disease, suffering, and death upon their soul and body by their own wilful transgressions; and when there was no hand to help and no eye to pity, when thy justice was turned against man, and man's heart turned against thee, thou didst send forth the eternal Son of thy love, made of a woman, made under the law, that through the offering of his sinless flesh he might overcome sin in our flesh; that through the shedding of his precious blood he might satisfy thy law and thy justice, and thus reconcile us unto thee. We bless thee that thou art pressing the acceptance of this salvation, wrought out by Jesus Christ as our Mediator, upon the very chief of sinners; and that the voice of thy gospel is, O every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, without money, and without price. We would obey this voice, gracious God! and we would come to this fountain thou hast opened up for sin and for uncleanness; and guilty and polluted as we are, poor, and miserable, and blind, and naked as we must acknowledge ourselves to be, we would believe that we shall be accepted through thy Beloved. We beseech thee to enable us to pass through the polluting and ensnaring things of time, as becometh those who are sensible that they have upon them the spotless robe of their Redeemer's righteousness. May the men who are given still to the pomps and vanities of this life, take knowledge of us that we are the self-denying followers of the

meeK and lowly Jesus. O Lord, we thank thee that thou hast again brought us so near to another sabbath of gospel ordinances. If spared by thee to the coming hallowed morn, grant that its sun may not only rise in peace upon us, but that the Sun of righteousness may arise with healing on his wings, through the means of all the solemn services of that day. Enable us to put both house and heart in order for the spiritual keeping of thy sabbath. May thy Spirit move to and fro over the families of the earth, so that the time be hastened when all shall know thee from the least unto the greatest. Bless the rulers of our land; dispose their hearts more and more to the welfare of the kingdom of thy Son. Accept of our thanksgivings for the mercies of the day now forever gone by. Pardon its many sins. We praise thee for whatever good thou hast enabled us to do. Be over this household and all that it contains. O thou keeper of Israel, keep our hearts in communion with thee, as we repose in the slumbers of the night. May our sleep be refreshing, and our meditations profitable and sweet. So that if body and soul are spared together, to arise to more work on this side the grave, that work may be done more unto thy glory, and body and soul be more and more fitted for entering into thy rest, through the blood of Christ. Amen, and Amen.

Forty-Second Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CXIX. 1-24.

O LORD, thou art glorious in holiness, and fearful in praises; angels and archangels stand around thy throne, and they cry, day and night, Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts; yea, such a sense have they of thy holiness, and such shame of their unworthiness to be in thy presence, that they veil their faces with their wings. And thou dost indeed charge them, pure and spotless as they are, with folly. Ah, Lord, what manner of creatures must we be in thy sight? we who have been conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity; we who have committed transgression in its most aggravating stains when we ran in the heedless paths of youth, when we would give ear to no admonition, when we despised all reproof, when we sought our happiness in the sinful pleasure of a world that lieth in wickedness, and when we felt towards thy word, and thy worship, and service, as a grievous yoke that we would never bear. How thankful ought we to be that thou hast spared us during our rebellious and ungrateful course. And if now, O Lord, thou hast brought any of us to bemoan the sins of our youth; if thou hast pierced our heart

by the sword of thy Spirit, and if, by the power of thy Spirit, we have been turned into the way of the statutes, Lord, we beseech thee to uphold our goings, and never take thy free Spirit from us. And if there be any now before thee who are still left to the imaginations of their own heart, and to the leadings of satan in the search of their happiness, Lord, be pleased to quicken them according to thy word; create in them a clean heart, and renew in them a right spirit; bring them also to the cross of Jesus, and while, through faith, thou purgest away all their sin, by his blood, from the book of thy remembrance, so that thou seest no iniquity in them finally to condemn them, do thou also enable them to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, and to dedicate themselves unto thee a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in thy sight. We rejoice that salvation dependeth not upon our own merits; but yet we do know that blessed only is the man who striveth to purify himself even as Christ is pure; because thou hast assured us, that without such purity, thy blessedness cannot be enjoyed. Evermore then, heavenly Father, fit us by all the means of thy grace for being received into thy bosom. We desire to thank thee for the continued supply of these means, for the return of thy sabbath, for the prospect of going up to thy sanctuary, where thou hast promised especially to bless thy people. O may we be able to hide thy word in our heart, so that satan may not be able to catch it away, and that we sin not against thee. Enable us, in using it, to follow the example of the saint whose inspired portion of it we have now read. Enable us to profit by all the sweet experiences of his soul which he has recorded. We would remember all who are detained, by necessary causes, from going up with us to the meeting of thy people. Stand by thy servants who are preparing this day to preach thy gospel. O may their sound go to the uttermost parts of the earth. And may we, as a congregation, and as a family, be among those who are blessed in knowing that joyful sound to the saving of our souls. We would again thank thee, in a family capacity, for the mercies of the past night. Lord, grant that we all meet again in the evening at thy throne, with acceptance through Christ. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CXIX. 25-32.

HEAVENLY Father, thou hast never said unto any of the seed of Jacob, Seek ye my face in vain. Believing that we are part of thy heritage, unto whom thou hast given many great and precious promises, would we approach thy throne of grace in the name of thine only and well-beloved Son, in whom thou hast promised to bless thy chosen ones with all spiritual blessings. We rejoice that we have free access unto thee with all our sins, by his peace-speaking blood; and that this blood may be sprinkled the more abundantly upon us, do we confess our manifold transgressions. Lord, thou hast prom-

ised, that though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; although they be red as crimson, they shall be as wool. We would feel them thus aggravated in thy sight. And, O how must they appear before thee, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity at all. Well, indeed, may our souls cleave unto the dust in thy presence, and melt for heaviness, when we think of what we have done against thee. Thy law is holy, just, and good; but we are carnal, sold under sin, and if thou, by thy grace and mercy in Christ Jesus, hast redeemed any one of us, we would ascribe the glory to thy free and unmerited favor. Behold what manner of love, that such sinful rebels should be called thy sons; that we should have such endearing names bestowed upon us, and that we should have such high privileges assured unto us. O that thy Spirit, in opposition to the deep feeling of our unworthiness, would bear more clear evidence in our hearts that we are indeed thine adopted children, and joint heirs with thy Son. Be thou pleased to make our faith in all the promises of our adoption more strong, so that our hearts may become more enlarged towards thee. Shed abroad thy love in them, that they may be filled with gratitude unto thee the God of all their comfort, and the Father of all their mercies. We mourn over their natural deadness, their forgetfulness of thy tender compassions; yea, and their wilful backslidings from thee. Justly mightest thou have cast us off from thy free favor, and let us alone to reap the fruit of our own doings. O we do trust that thou wilt never thus leave us, that thou wilt never utterly forsake us. And we do hope that we may take all the warnings and pleadings in the preaching of thy gospel this day, as a token that we are not yet beyond the day of grace and merciful visitation. May the word that was spoken be sealed upon our souls, so as to seal them under thy Spirit against the day of redemption. Grant that we give evidence in the rest of our weary pilgrimage, that we and all thine Israel have this day received refreshing from on high. Open, we beseech thee, our eyes, that we may see more and more of the wonders of thy law, that we adore more and more the wonders of thy redeeming love. O surely great is the mystery and the wonder of God being manifested in the flesh. As thine angels delight to look into these things, O may we, who are the objects of this wonderful work of redemption, delight to consider it by day and night. We beseech thee to bless all those for whom thou wouldst have us to pray. Our friends and our relations do thou preserve; and as we can ask for no better thing unto them, than that thou wouldst open their eyes to the things that belong to their everlasting peace, Lord, grant us to see them seeking, with all earnestness, the way of life. Enable us to forgive all those who sit and speak against us; while we endure their hatred and scorn, enable us to meditate on the example of him, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again. Lord, turn the hearts of the persecutors of thy people and of thy cause. And whereas we fear that many have this day profaned thy sabbath, and turned it into a day of sinful recreation, we beseech thee to make them, before it return again, more alive to their own best interests and to thy wrath. Refresh the spirits of all that have spent themselves either in teaching

or in preaching thy gospel. Especially do thou encourage the heart of him who has the spiritual oversight of our souls. Enable us, in the silent watches of the night, to turn our thoughts back to the exercises of the past day. Alas! Lord, for our little profiting with all, for our deadness and formality, for our wandering of thought and worldly-mindedness. Pardon these sins mixed with our solemn duties. And we again entreat thee to hear the prayers of the closet, of the family, and of the sanctuary, through the merits and mediation of him whom thou hearest always, even him who is exalted at thy right hand, our Prince and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Lord our Righteousness. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—JEREMIAH LI.

O LORD, who can stand in thy sight, when thou arisest to judgment! Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Evil cannot dwell with thee, the Lord; neither can fools stand in thy sight. Thou hatest all the workers of iniquity. We lament, before thee, O God, that through the entrance and influence of sin, the earth is filled with violence, and the hearts of the children of men are fully set in them to do evil. From the very beginning, one generation hath risen up after another, to renew the deeds of their fathers, and to realize the sufferings and sorrows that are inseparable from the commission of sin. We desire, O Lord, to mourn over the corruption of our nature, and the sinfulness of our race. We lament, that even in the early ages of the world, all flesh had corrupted its way, and it repented the Lord that he had made man; and in his righteous judgment he sent the flood to destroy the world of the ungodly. But alas! O God, how soon did iniquity again lift up its head. How speedily did the children of men take counsel together, to plot against the Lord and his Anointed; that they might oppose his cause, and oppress his people. Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thou didst remember thy covenant, and broughtest salvation to thy chosen; and didst take vengeance on thine adversaries. Thou didst, O God, smite great nations, and slay mighty kings. The sins of Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, and the beauty of the Chaldeans' excellency, came up in remembrance before thee; and thou didst visit her with a fearful overthrow, and swept her away as with the besom of destruction. O righteous Father, do thou remember the word that thou hast spoken respecting the spiritual Babylon, the mystery of iniquity, the mother of abominations, that has wrought such wickedness in the earth. Grant, we humbly beseech thee, that the time of her visitation may speedily come, when thou wilt avenge upon her the oppressions of thy people, and the blood of those that were slain for the testimony of Jesus; and when she shall be cast as a great mill-stone into the sea, never to be found any more at all. O Lord, do thou save us from all errors and delusion. Enable us to hold

fast the word of life, and to maintain the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. Blessed be thy name, O God, that on the day that is past we were permitted to enjoy the hallowed rest of the holy sabbath. Follow with thy blessing the spiritual services in which we were engaged. May saving impressions of divine things abide with us, and exercise their proper influence on our conduct. Give us grace, we humbly beseech thee, that in entering on the work of the six days that are given us for our employments, we may be enabled continually to set thee before us, that thou mayest direct our goings, that every pursuit may be conducted in thy fear, and every work be done to thy glory. May our whole life here below, be a walking with God. Through the grace of thy Spirit may we grow up in a meetness for the heavenly inheritance, that an abundant entrance may be administered unto us into thine everlasting kingdom. These, and all other blessings needful for us, we implore in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—1 TIMOTHY III.

O THOU who art the God of grace and of mercy, do thou incline thine ear to hear the voice of our supplications. We ever adore thee as the Father of lights and of life, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift. We would acknowledge our entire dependence upon thee, both for the life that now is, and that which is to come. Thy mercies are new to us every morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Thou art crowning us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. O that there were in us such a heart as that we would love thy name, revere thine authority, and obey thy holy will. Do thou, O God, cleanse us from our pollutions and idols; do thou blot out our manifold transgressions for thine own name's sake; and grant that we may be washed, and sanctified, and justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. We rejoice, O Lord, that in every age and generation thou hast had a seed to serve thee, who were fed and nourished through the ministrations of thy word and the grace of thy Spirit, and were enabled to adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour by a life and conversation becoming the gospel. O grant, we humbly pray thee, that there may be many such in our day. May the ministers of the word, and all who bear rule in thy church, obtain mercy to be faithful. May they be instant in season, out of season, willing to spend and be spent in the service of their Lord and Master. And do thou, with whom is the residue of the Spirit, bear testimony to the word of thy grace, that it may become effectual for the conversion of sinners, and for building up thy people in their most holy faith. Do thou clothe thy priests with salvation, that thy saints may shout aloud for joy. We would desire, O Lord, at the close of this day, to acknowledge thy goodness towards us during the course of it. Blessed be the Lord

who hath given us this day our daily bread; who hath compassed us about with his favors as with a shield, and who hath upheld our goings. O God, do thou graciously forgive wherein we have forgotten thee and forsaken thy law; and do thou condescend to accept of all our humble endeavors to honor and obey thee. May the good Lord now meet with us when we are met together in his name, and bless us severally according to our need. May he be pleased to accept of our evening sacrifice. May he extend over us this night the shadow of his wings, and grant us the sleep which he giveth to his beloved, that being refreshed with needful rest, we may awaken to the activities of a new day, and be enabled to glorify God in our bodies and spirits, which are his. These, and all other needful blessings, we pray for in the name of Jesus Christ, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—LAMENTATIONS I.

O THOU who art Jehovah, the Lord of hosts, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things that are in heaven and in earth, do thou bow down thine ear to hear the voice of our confessions and supplications at this time. We would come before thee with reverence and godly fear. We would sanctify thee, the Lord God, in our heart, and make thee our fear and our dread. Do thou pour out thy Spirit upon us as a spirit of understanding, and of the fear of the Lord—as a Spirit of faith, and repentance, and holiness—as a Spirit of grace and supplication, that we may, in a suitable manner, sanctify our lives before thee, and exercise the godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation, and return unto the Lord, from whom we have deeply revolted. We rejoice, O Lord, that thou art righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. Thou afflictest not willingly, nor grievest the children of men. Thou chastenest them not for thine own pleasure, but for their profit, and that they might be partakers of thy holiness. We would therefore cry unto thee, O God, out of the depths of our guilt, and misery, and helplessness. We would adore the wisdom, and forbearance, and mercy, of thy dealings with us. O that the goodness of God may lead us to repentance, and that we may be enabled henceforth to live not unto ourselves, but unto the praise of the glory of thy grace. Heavenly Father, do thou give us grace to improve aright what thou hast made known to us of thy dealings with Israel of old. Thou didst choose them out of all the families of the earth; thou didst set them apart as a heritage for thyself; thou didst bestow upon them many great and precious privileges; but, alas! they were not faithful to thy covenant, nor obedient to thy will. They forsook the God who made them, and did lightly esteem the Rock of their salvation; they provoked thee to anger by their idolatries and evil ways; wherefore thou didst, in thy righteous judgment, scatter them among the na-

tions, and disperse them among the people, and they are, unto this day, a bye-word and a proverb in the earth. O God of their fathers, Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, do thou remember mercy in the midst of wrath. Turn them again, Lord God of hosts, and so they shall be safe. Remove the veil that is over their hearts, and cause them to see the light of the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. O convince them that Jesus of Nazareth is he who should come, and that they need not look for another; and bring them back from their unbelief and wanderings unto the great Shepherd and Bishop of souls. Help us, O Lord, to abide in the faith of Christ, and to bring forth the fruits of righteousness to the praise of the glory of thy grace. Keep us, O God, by thy power, through faith unto salvation. And do for us, and in us, exceeding abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—1 TIMOTHY IV.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the God of truth, and of grace, and of holiness. Thou dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory. Evil cannot dwell with thee, neither shall fools stand in thy sight. Thou hatest all the workers of iniquity. O blessed be thy name for the revelation which thou hast given us of thy character and will in the scriptures of truth, and that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Grant, we humbly pray thee, that we may be enabled to receive the truth in the love of it, and that the truth may make us free; that the entrance of thy word may give life and light to our souls; and that, through the effectual operation of thy Spirit, we may become as living epistles of the truth, known and read of all men. O help us to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. May we hold fast the word of life, and cleave closely unto him who is the way, and the truth, and the life, and by whom alone we can come unto the Father. We would tremble and be afraid, O God, when we think of the delusions and iniquities to which we are so liable. How easily are we turned aside from the right path! how readily do we submit our neck to the yoke of bondage! O do thou arise for our defence, deliver us in the hour of danger, and keep us in safety under the shadow of thy wings. Hasten the time when all superstition and idolatry shall be banished from off the face of the earth. O deliver us from the aspirations and encroachments of the man of sin, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. O may the Lord speedily consume him with the Spirit of his mouth and destroy him

with the brightness of his coming, and may there be nothing to hurt or destroy throughout all God's holy mountain. May the knowledge of the Lord cover the earth as the waters cover the channel of the sea, and all the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ. Heavenly Father, be with us now when we retire to rest. Give us the sleep of thy beloved. Pardon our manifold and highly aggravated offences, and speak peace to us through the blood of the cross. And unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, be undivided and eternal glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—LAMENTATIONS II.

O THOU who art the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, we desire to humble ourselves before thee this morning, in acknowledgment of thine absolute sovereignty over us, and our entire dependence upon thee. Thou didst make us, and not we ourselves; we are the people of thy hand, and the sheep of thy pasture; thou orderest all the events that befall us here; thou appointest sorrow, and thou givest joy; thou hast set the bounds of our earthly habitation; thou hast numbered the days and years of our mortal existence. Help us to remember that we are altogether in thy hand, and subject to thy disposal; and may we be enabled to look up to thee continually under all the dispensations of thy providence, with a perfect reliance on thy wisdom, thy faithfulness, and thy love. We desire, O Lord, this day to acknowledge our transgressions, and to remember our sins before thee. When we look back upon our past life, and number over our provocations, when we look inward upon our own hearts and discern their corruption, when we look around upon the sinfulness of our own doings, when we look up to him who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, we deeply feel that we cannot enter into judgment with God, or answer him when he contends with us. Once have we spoken, but we will not answer; yea, twice, but we will proceed no further; we had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now our eye seeth thee; wherefore we abhor ourselves, and repent in dust and ashes. Humble our souls, we beseech thee, under a deep and abiding sense of our own sinfulness and demerit; give us the broken and contrite heart that mourns and confesses its corruption; let every proud and self-righteous feeling within us be utterly cast down, and may we be taught to feel and acknowledge that the Lord is just and righteous when he judgeth. Especially, amid the afflictions with which thou art pleased to visit us, may we learn the lesson at once of our own guilt and of thy holiness, and be taught to remember that sin is the bitter cause of sorrow, and that it is our own iniquities that have armed thy providence against us. Help us to acknowledge thy mighty hand and thy truth even in thy sorest chastisements; and knowing that nothing but sin can separate between us and God, may we be stirred

up to a holy anxiety to search our own hearts, and try our own ways, and to cast out the accursed thing that hath kindled thy displeasure against us. We bless thy name that there is still mercy with thee, that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption, that thou mayest be sought after. Thou wast a little angry with us, but thou hast turned thee from thine anger and hast comforted us; behold God hath become our salvation, and the Most High our Redeemer. May we find in Jesus Christ that resting-place for our souls which he hath promised to the weary and heavy-laden; let our sins be forgiven us for his name's sake; teach us to look up to thee through him as unto a reconciled Father; and abiding continually in him by faith, may we taste of that peace which the world cannot give, and experience of that grace and strength which will fit us for duty and trial. In him is our confidence, let it not be disappointed; may he become to us in growing fulness every day our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification, and redemption. Unto thee, as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend ourselves during this day, and for all the days of our appointed time on earth. Be thou our shield and our guide, our hope and our joy. Watch over all our interests and our footsteps; enrich us with the treasures of thy grace, and keep us by thy power unto thy kingdom. Be very gracious unto all whom we love. Be gracious unto all who are of the household of faith. Let thy kingdom come, let thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; and hasten on the promised peace and blessedness of a better age. Hear these our supplications, and send us an answer in peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—1 TIMOTHY V.

O God, we would now approach thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. In him, O Lord, we desire now to be found; and we entreat thee, for his sake, to receive us graciously, and love us freely, to blot out the multitude of our transgressions, to enrich our souls with thy sanctifying grace, to number us with thine adopted and chosen ones, and to visit us with thy great salvation. Teach us more and more our own lost and undone condition as sinners; and under a deep and active feeling of our personal need, may we be led to draw near in faith to him upon whom thou hast laid the burden of our infirmities and guilt, and who, once having died for our sins, hath been exalted to bestow their forgiveness. May we maintain habitually upon our hearts the conviction, that without Christ we can do nothing, and that as the branch cannot bear fruit except it abide in the vine, so neither can we except we abide in Jesus. Do thou, therefore, teach us every day to cultivate a nearer and more intimate fellowship with him, to abide in him continually by faith, and never to cease our desires and endeavors to increase in an experimental knowledge of him as our own Saviour and our own God. Crucified

with him, may we nevertheless live; and grant that the life which we live in the flesh may be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us. We desire to render thanks to thee for all the means of grace and opportunities of spiritual improvement with which we are favored. Unto us the lines have fallen in pleasant places, yea, we have got a goodly heritage. We bless thee for the word of life, for the light of the gospel which has shone around our dwellings, for our sabbaths and means of grace, for the church of Christ and the ordinances that draw down of his presence and blessing in the midst of us, for the promise of the Spirit to abide with us forever. May we never forget that to whom much is given, from them much will be required; and may we be stirred up to a more adequate feeling of the value of the privileges we enjoy, and to a greater anxiety for the right improvement of them. Forbid that those means of grace, to which the promise of thy Spirit and blessing are annexed, should be neglected or undervalued by us. But rather may we be found growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and living henceforward as the children of so many mercies. May our souls be nourished and watered from day to day, by the dew of thy grace, and outpouring of thy Spirit; and O may the fruits of the Spirit, in faith and holiness, be made manifest in our habitual walk and conversation. We beseech thee, gracious Father, to be with us during the watches of the night; and may he, in whose eye the darkness and the light are both the same, grant us his presence and protection during our slumbers. Give us to lie down under a confiding sense of thy goodness, and when we awake may our thoughts be still with thee. Bless all who are united to us by the ties of kindred or affection. May they too share in thy blessing. May they and we be safe under the shadow of thy wings; and all that we ask is for Christ our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—LAMENTATIONS III.

UNTO whom, O Lord, can we go but unto thee, for it is thine ear that is never heavy that it cannot hear, and it is thine arm that is never shortened that it cannot save? When our souls are overwhelmed and in perplexity, we would flee unto the rock that is higher than we. We rejoice in the assurance that thou afflictest not willingly, nor grieveest the children of men; and we desire to rest in the promise, that the Lord will not cast off forever; that though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. The Lord is our portion, therefore will we hope in him. O give us to abide under the shadow of the Almighty. May he cover us with his feathers, and under his wings may our trust be. Whatever be the trials with which thou art pleased to visit us, may we still be sensible that we are safe in thy hand. In all thy dealings

with us, teach us to trace the tokens of Fatherly wisdom and compassion. May we remember that thou contendest with thy people not in anger, but in love. And in the dispensations of thy hand, may we learn to acknowledge that thou afflictest not for thine own pleasure, but for our good. Drawing closer to thee as our reconciled God in Christ Jesus, may we lift up the hands that hang down, and the feeble knees, and rejoice in the assurance that whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth. We give thee thanks for the assurance, that we have not an High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one who in all our afflictions is afflicted. O may he who once was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, visit us in the season of our sorrow. He knows our frame, he remembers that we are dust. May he be our help, our refuge, and our stay. Teach us, amid all our trials, to look up to that once crucified, but now exalted Saviour, who still well remembers in heaven his own earthly distresses. And satisfied that to him belong infinite power and infinite compassion, and both exercised for the good of his church, may we learn neither to despise the chastenings of the Lord, nor to faint when we are rebuked of him. Sanctify, we beseech thee, to our spiritual good, all the discipline of thy providence with us. May tribulation work patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, even that hope which maketh not ashamed, but which, as an anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast, entereth in within the veil. Teach us to know more experimentally the unsatisfactory nature of all earthly good; and let our souls be lifted up to heaven to seek there for a better and more enduring portion. We would now rest our burden upon the Lord. We wait and watch for his salvation. We commit ourselves, and all our interests, into thy faithful hands. Be this day our guide and shield through the wilderness. Save us from danger, save us from sin, and lead us at last to the land of rest. Let all our days on earth be spent in thy fear, and in the enjoyment of thy favor. Let our friends be thy friends; let them enjoy thy blessing. May they and we together be partakers of thy goodness here, and the heirs of thy kingdom hereafter. Our supplications are before thee. Do thou for us, and in us, more than we can ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—1 TIMOTHY VI.

THOU art the blessed and the only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Thou only hast immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen or can see. Wherewithal shall we come before the Lord, or bow ourselves before the most high God? We bless thee that thou thyself hast shown us that which is good; and that when we had no offering or sacrifice to present for ourselves, thou didst provide the Lamb for the burnt-offering. Do thou be pleased to call to remembrance,

on our behalf, the perfect sacrifice and all sufficient atonement of the Lord our Redeemer; and seeing that he shed his blood, and poured out his life for our redemption, may we receive through faith all those blessings of a spiritual kind which he died to purchase, and is now exalted to bestow. Let not our sins separate betwixt us and thee. Let not our iniquities turn away thy compassion from us. For the sake of thy Beloved, do thou lift upon our souls the light of thy reconciled countenance, and visit us with thy salvation. May we find, in our happy experience, that in Jesus Christ there is plentiful redemption; that with him there is mercy for our souls, and pardon for all our offences. Teach us to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord; and the more we come to know, with regard to ourselves, that we are poor, and needy, and naked, may we seek the more earnestly to be clothed upon with the righteousness of him who, although he knew no sin, was yet made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. And while seeking to be justified freely through faith in Jesus Christ, we would entreat also that our natures may be renewed and sanctified by his Spirit. May that Spirit work in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure towards us. May our hearts become the temples of the Holy Ghost, in which he delights to dwell. And may every impure thought, every worldly passion, every unholy desire, every unlawful feeling, be cast down and rebuked at his presence. As the ransomed people of the Lord, may we continually feel that we are not our own, and that we are bound to glorify him in our bodies and spirits, which are his. Forbid that at any time sin should have the dominion over us. But remembering that holy name by which we are called, and that precious blood which was given to redeem us, may it be our heart's desire and effort to walk through the world as the disciples of Jesus, and to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour by enlightened conversation becoming the gospel. Let us not be conformed to this world in its maxims, its manners, or its feelings; but may we be transformed by the renewing of our minds. And as strangers and pilgrims, who have neither their home nor their portion here, may we be waiting and longing for that second coming of our Lord and Saviour, when he shall appear without sin into salvation. We desire to unite in thanksgiving to thee for the mercies of the past day; and in the confidence of the same mercy we would now commit our bodies, and spirits, and all that concerns us, to thy keeping for the night. May he who neither slumbers nor sleeps watch over us during its darkness, and let not any plague come nigh our dwelling. Bless those that are dear to us. Be very gracious to thine own heritage. May thy church everywhere be built up, and thy people multiplied; and very soon may the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God. Hear us, we beseech thee, gracious God, and accept of us, and answer us, for Christ our Saviour's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—LAMENTATIONS IV.

THOU art, O Lord, a holy and a sin-hating God. Thine eyes are purer than to look on sin, and thou abhorrest the workers of iniquity; and though on him thou dost not always execute judgment speedily, yet thou wilt at length make bare thy holy arm. Thou wilt not be mocked forever; and before thy terrible wrath the tabernacles of the wicked and the hope of the hypocrite shall perish. Thy judgments have been known upon the earth. This drowned and deluged world, Sodom in ashes, Jerusalem in ruins, thine ancient people this day vagabonds on the earth, a hissing, a by-word, and a proverb among the nations,—these proclaim thy justice, and that it is indeed a terrible thing to fall into the hands of a living and an angry God. And amid these monuments of ruin, here we stand, not monuments of man's merit, but of God's mercy. Why has not thy glittering sword been stretched out against us? Why has not destruction overthrown our cities, and the sword drunk our blood, and the famine devoured our strength, and the pestilence walked in darkness through our habitations? Lord, our sins and our shortcomings bear witness that it is of thy mercy that we have not been consumed, and because thy compassions fail not. Pastors and people, sovereign and subjects, parents and children, all, even all of us, have sinned against thee, and sinned against thee times and ways without number. Our first parents fell, and buried us in their fall; our glory departed; thy image was destroyed; and now, instead of righteousness, clothed us over with iniquity, covered us over with sin. How is the gold become dim; the most fine gold, how is it changed! May we be warned by thy hast judgments on the earth to flee from a more terrible judgment than them all. Hell is coming, and we have deserved it; but yet thou art waiting to be merciful and gracious; and because thou art now restraining thy wrath, wicked men are saying, Where is the promise of his coming? Whatever others say and do, may we listen to the voice from heaven, which says, Escape for thy life, flee from the wrath to come. Blessed be thy name, thou hast provided a refuge, a free refuge, a full refuge, open to all, and large enough for all. Turn us, Lord, turn us by thy mighty power; turn us unto Christ; drive us unto him by the terrors of a coming judgment; draw us unto him by the cords of love. O send forth thy light and thy truth, that we may be guided to this city of refuge, for surely the avenger is behind us, and there may not be an hour to lose. Like thy ancient people, we may be watching for a nation that cannot save us. Trusting to our own righteousness, to our own repentance, to our own characters, to our own merits, we may be thinking to swim the flood in an ark of our own building. If so, open our eyes to this, that these are refuges of lies, and that out of Christ there is no salvation. Wash us in his blood, sanctify us by his Spirit, and so prepare us for that day when thou wilt come to judge the earth, and to take vengeance on all thine

enemies. Then may his wing cover us, then in his pavilion may he hide us; and when the angel passes through the land, may the blood of the Lamb of God be seen upon our door-posts. Keep us now through faith unto salvation, and afterwards receive us into glory, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—2 TIMOTHY I.

OUR Father which art in heaven, thou art the fountain of all our mercies, the God of all our comforts. We thank thee for the health, the bread, the protection, the earthly blessings that we have enjoyed this day. If we have gone out and come in; if we have sat down and risen up in safety and peace; if the outgoings of another morning and another evening have rejoiced over us, this is the Lord's doing; and, considering our many sins and shortcomings, it is marvellous in our eyes. And if there be any good thing in our souls, any grace, any love, any faith, these are thy gifts, O God. By grace it is that thy people are what they are. May we all be made partakers of the grace of God. Give us, as thou gavest to Timothy, a faith unfeigned. If we have had godly parents as he had, we thank thee for it. May the prayers of the parents be answered in the children; and may the young grow up from their mother's knees in the knowledge of the word of that gracious Saviour, who said, Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. May thy sovereign grace, which leaveth one and taketh another, passeth one generation and resteth upon a second, rest and abide on us; and whatever gifts have thereby been bestowed on us or ours, may they be diligently stirred up. May we think much of our sins, that our humility may be deepened. May we think much of our Saviour, that as we muse on the sufferings, and the kindness, and the love of Jesus, the fire may burn within us, our love may grow warmer, and our faith may grow stronger, and we may increase in devotedness to him, who so graciously and generously devoted himself to us. And by thy Holy Spirit, ever dwelling, abiding, and working in us, may we be kept steadfast, amid all our trials and temptations, to the truth and the cause of Christ. Let us not lapse into error, nor fall back into sin. Give us courage to stand by Christ's cause and servants. Keep us, Lord, for we cannot keep ourselves. We commit our way to the Lord, the keeping of body and of soul to him. May thy providence watch over us this night. Thou that givest thy beloved sleep, give us quiet repose; and ever may our last and our first thoughts be of thee. In the blood of Jesus wash away all our sins, thou very God of peace. Sanctify us wholly; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—LAMENTATIONS V.

O LORD, we draw near unto thee, who art a very present help in every time of trouble; remember, O Lord, what is come upon us, consider and behold our reproach. Thou didst at first make man upright, thou didst crown us with glory and honor, but alas! the crown has fallen from our heads; woe unto us that we have sinned. From our high and holy estate we have fallen, and fallen under the power of a worse than Assyrian, of a heavier than Egyptian bondage; we are not only the servants of servants, but we are the bond-slaves of satan, the servants of hellish passions; these, by nature, have dominion over us, their bondage is grievous, their wages is death. O that thou wouldst resume thine authority over us, that thou wouldst deliver us from the captivity of sin, that thou wouldst break their sinful fetters, not only proclaiming, but giving liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison doors to them that are bound. Thanks be to God the proclamation has been made; thanks be to Jesus the ransom is paid; and now when he says, I have set before thee an open door, O give us grace to rise and embrace this offer of salvation. But, Lord, of ourselves we cannot accept of it; we are like a captive with an open door, but fettered and bound to the floor; the love of the world, the lust of sin, pride, unbelief, these bind us, and we pray thee send thy Holy Spirit to break these fetters and set us free. We are bound, and need to be delivered; like Peter, we are asleep in prison, and need to be awakened. He was smitten by the angels, and so do thou smite us with convictions of sin, so do thou rouse us to a sense of our danger, open thou our eyes to such a sight, impress our hearts with such a sense of our lost, ruined, and miserable condition, that we may earnestly seek, and gladly embrace the Saviour. Restore the crown to our heads, restore thine image to our hearts, restore to our souls the joy of thy salvation, and build us up anew from the ruins and desolation of the fall. That we may not be utterly, awfully, eternally rejected, preserve us from rejecting Christ; may we remember that though thou remainest forever, the day of grace remaineth not forever, nor the throne of grace forever; that these shall pass away to usher in a day and a throne of judgment, where our state will be fixed for eternity, and as the tree falleth it shall ever lie. If we have never yet been converted, may we be converted now; let this be the day of our spiritual birth, for we know not but this may be our dying day, the very last opportunity that we shall have of embracing an offered Saviour. Saving, do thou sanctify us; sanctify thy people more and more. May the very God of peace sanctify us wholly. In thy fear do thou this day keep us, with thy mercies do thou this day crown us; thou that hast preserved us in our lying down, preserve us in our going out and coming in, preserve our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death; and bring us all at last in peace to thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—2 TIMOTHY II.

O LORD, Almighty God, thou fountain of light, and life, and purity, make the light of the glorious gospel of Christ to shine into our hearts. We thank thee for our Church, our ordinances, our ministers, and our teachers, and we pray that these fountains may ever be preserved from pollution. With these means of grace, give us that blessing from above without which a Paul might plant, an Apollos might water, and yet there would be no increase. May we not be satisfied with belonging to an orthodox church, with holding an orthodox creed, seeing that it will profit us nothing to know the truth unless we believe it and obey it. With sound teachers give an effectual blessing; with the teaching of men, give the application of thy Spirit, so that we may be taught savingly and to profit, so that the gospel may not come to us in word only, but in power, in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance. May we be brought into a state of grace, and be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; may we not only be kept from error, but delivered from weakness; may we not only be found in Christ's ranks, but enduring hardness and staying sin, and resisting satan, and overcoming the love and the lust of the world, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. As those that have named the name of Christ, may we be enabled to depart from all iniquity; let no sin whatever have dominion over us, let every Achan be cast forth, every root of bitterness removed, and in heart, as well as habit, may we be so purified, that we may be vessels unto honor, sanctified, meet for the Master's use, and prepared for every good work. May the young flee from youthful lusts, and seek the Saviour early; bend thou the tree in the earliest stage of its growth, giving the young heart a direction towards heaven, holiness, and Christ; and whether old or young, may we be found following righteousness, faith, charity, and peace; our feet ever treading those ways of wisdom which are ways of pleasantness, and all whose paths are peace. Crown our heads with the blessings of grace here, crown them with glory hereafter. May the mercies of the day be followed by rest and protection this night. Preserve us to the light and the duties of another day, and when we lie down at last to sleep in the grave, may the night of death be followed by a glorious morn. May we rise to a gracious and glorious acquittal; then may we be found in Christ; and when our eyes open on a great white throne of judgment, may they open also on a blood-purchased crown of glory; and beseeching thee to hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ thy beloved Son, and our only Saviour, we would ascribe all glory unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, world without end, forever and ever. Amen.

Forty-Third Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CXIX. 49-72.

Most blessed Lord, we praise thee for all the manifestations of thy character in thy works and thy ways; but especially on this day of rest, sacred to the remembrance of a once crucified, but now risen Saviour, we would extol thee for that covenant of grace, in the old time the refuge and hope of believing men, and which is now sealed by the blood of Christ. We praise thee for the full and free overtures of mercy which are addressed to us through the divine Redeemer; for all the benefits that are treasured in him; for the encouragement that his doctrine affords us to perseverance in a holy obedience, and to the cultivation of a close intercourse with thee our Father in heaven, and for the comfort it yields us amidst every trial of life, and the slanders and reproaches of the ungodly. Grant that we may never be moved away from the hope that is in Christ; that through the blood of the covenant alone we may ever look for pardon, and all needed spiritual blessings; that by faith in this we may learn from this day to eschew those ways that are evil, and to esteem thy law as better than thousands of gold or silver: thus may we become companions of all them that fear thee. And may the holy book, that records the things that belong to our peace, ever be prized by us as the charter of our privileges, the storehouse of our treasures. May we learn to make it the man of our counsel, the frequent companion of our solitude, our guide in seasons of difficulty, our refuge in danger, our comfort in affliction. Lord God of the sabbath, vouchsafe to us thy presence and countenance on this day, which thou hast specially made for thyself. Quicken our hearts, and enliven our affections for all the devotional exercises, both public and private, to which we are now invited. Let this prove truly a season of rest and refreshment to each one of us. Be with us when we enter thy house; or if thy presence go not with us, carry us not up thither. Remember thy word of promise unto thy servants, that where two or three are met together in thy name, there thou wilt be in the midst of them. Give testimony to the word of thy grace whensoever and by whomsoever it may be proclaimed this day, so that many who have hitherto been living at a distance from thee, may now choose thee as their portion, and may, with deep repentance, entreat thy favor with the whole heart, and that thy people may, with grateful hearts, anew take encouragement in thy service. May the sick and sorrowful, who cannot enter thy house, know that thou art with them, and in the issue learn thy statutes from their affliction. All these things we beg for Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CXIX. 73-96.

O GOD, our Creator, who hast made us fearfully and wonderfully, and whose inspiration did at the first give us understanding, we have much cause to bless thee that thou art still permitting us to worship at thy footstool. We confess that by sinning against thee we have unmade ourselves, and reduced our souls to shame, perplexity, and sorrow. Instead of being perplexed at thy judgments, we may well wonder that thou hast not altogether disowned thine own dishonored handiwork, by driving us forever from thy presence. Yet thou hast spoken in thy word of thy purpose of mercy. Thou art making provision for again rearing thy temple in the hearts of men, and restoring thine image to those souls which are darkened and defaced by transgression. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath begotten us again to the lively hope. Blessed be he that came to save us. Blessed be the Spirit who vouchsafes to accomplish this good work in our hearts. O pardon our sins for thy mercies' sake, even through the shed blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let thy merciful kindness be for our comfort. Thou knowest how ready we are to be fascinated by the things of this earth, to the neglect of our souls, and how we often sink into self-righteousness, while we profess to make salvation our chief concern. O Lord, do thou then by thy Spirit fix our hearts on the things that belong to our peace. Grant that we may never be moved away from the hope that is in Christ, nor despair of thy mercy. Do thou who, at the first, didst command the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts again, to give us the knowledge of thy glory. Restore to us thine image which we have lost; grant us understanding that we may learn thy commandments; and renew us in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after the likeness of him who created us. We are surrounded by enemies, we are beset by dangers, and our hearts are weak and treacherous. O do thou uphold and strengthen us, that we may never make shipwreck of our profession, but that by our steadfastness we may gladden the hearts of those that fear thee. Blessed be thy name for the privileges of another sabbath; and grant that a blessing may follow all the religious services, whether public or private, in which we have this day engaged. Pity those who dwell in the lands of blood and cruelty, who have no sabbaths, and who are in darkness because they have not received thy word. Have mercy on those who are misimproving their privileges, and who hate the light. Let the cry of the afflicted, and the sighing of the prisoner, come up before thee; and prepare us also for the days of darkness and sorrow. Hear us in these our requests for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL II. III.

O God, most holy and righteous, we acknowledge that we have rebelled against thee. We have sinned with our fathers, and have done wickedly, and have been froward and stiff-necked children. From our childhood we have been taught thy word, we have been permitted to wait on thee in thine ordinances, and we have enjoyed many quiet sabbaths. Thou hast addressed us by the ministers of salvation. Our dwellings have been changed, yet thou hast still continued to afford us the light of sacred truth; and we have had line upon line, and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. Yet, after all these warnings and instructions, we have been unprofitable and unfruitful. Surely it is because thou art long-suffering that thou hast not utterly cast us off, and that thou art still warning us by thy providence, and by thy word, to flee from the wrath to come. O grant, merciful Father, that none of us may be guilty of neglecting the great salvation, or of stifling our own convictions, that thou shouldest, in just displeasure, give us over to a reprobate mind, and a seared conscience. May we know by thy grace what it is to eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of man, daily to participate in his blessings, and to be fed out of his fulness, that we may enjoy the full benefits flowing from reconciliation with thee, and may bring forth, under a constraining sense of thy love, the fruits of righteousness to thy praise. And when we remember how unprofitable and unfruitful we have been during our past lives, may we be filled with ingenuous sorrow, and earnest desire, henceforward to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. We bless thee for the ordinances of grace regularly dispensed among us, and that thou hast made provision, by the ministry of reconciliation, for the warning of sinners, and the edification of thine own people. May the ministers of Christ feel and know the importance and preciousness of the truths which they are called to proclaim to others, that they may speak as becomes dying men to dying men, and with a heart-felt tenderness for the precious souls of their fellow-sinners. Give them grace to be faithful in the execution of the sacred trust committed to them, that they may be ever animated by zeal for the honor of their great Master, and for the extension of his kingdom. Thou knowest the temptations they may often feel to yield to a worldly spirit, or to temporize amidst the reproach and obloquy of wicked men. Give them, then, strength to live above the world while they are in it, and to give good proof that reverence for thine authority has served to banish every other fear. While they feed others, may they themselves be fed abundantly, that they may be the better prepared to endure hardships, and may prove in all things faithful watchmen. And do thou keep us all mindful, that for the use we make of our privileges we must give an account to thee at the last day; and that if the ministers of the gospel have been faithful, our blood must rest on our own heads, if we die in our sins. O

grant that many who have been living at a distance from thee may now take warning, and flee from the wrath to come. Let not the wickedness and unbelief that still prevail in our land provoke thee to turn away from us as a nation in holy displeasure. Let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish thou the way of the just, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—2 TIMOTHY III.

GLORIOUS Lord God, manifest thy greatness to our souls, that we may worship reverently before thee, and convince us of our own unworthiness, that we may rightly estimate thy kindness and condescension in permitting and inviting us to ask blessings at thy hand. Great, O Lord, is thy mercy towards us, and we are now experiencing thy goodness in having another opportunity to pray. May we experience thy goodness also in receiving an answer to our prayers. O give us what we truly need. May we possess a competent portion of this world's substance, such a portion as thou knowest to be reasonable and right. But O, convince us that we need provision for the immortal soul, and dispose us diligently and perseveringly to use the means by which it is to be obtained. May we daily read that word of thine which is profitable for doctrine and reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness. May we devoutly meditate on the sacred truths which it contains. Sabbath by Sabbath may we enter the house of prayer, and may the word preached be mixed with faith in us who hear it. By earnest supplication, may we ask thy blessing on our souls. May we habitually wait at wisdom's gates, and watch at the posts of her doors. And may we receive instruction not only from the ordinances of thy worship and the lessons of thy word, but also from the events that befall us in the world. May the blessings we possess stir us up to heart-felt gratitude, and may thy bereaving and other afflictive dispensations towards us wean our minds from the creature, and direct them in earnest aspiration and filial confidence towards thee. O give us thy Holy Spirit. May he instruct us in our ignorance, and guide us in our folly. May he sanctify our souls, and shed abroad celestial consolation on our hearts. Be thou thyself our reconciled Father, and in Christ thy Son may we find a friend that loveth at all times, a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Watch over us for good and not for evil, and take us in thine own time to the inheritance. Whether we live or die, may we be the Lord's, and may each one of us have cause to say, I know in whom I have believed, and that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day. Defend us this night. Spare us, if such be thy holy will, till another day, and grant, that so long as thou continuest our lives, we may devote them to thy service. Promote thine own cause. Suppress ignorance, irreligion, and vice. Stay wicked men in their wild

career. Make manifest to all men the folly as well as criminality of unbelief and crime. Send holy Scripture forth throughout the world, and accompany it by the influence of that Spirit by whom it was inspired. From childhood may immortal creatures be taught the doctrines of thy gospel, and the precepts of thy law, and by the holy Scriptures may they be wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Father of mercies, answer these our unworthy petitions for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL VI.

O LORD, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us, confusion of face, as at this day, to our kings, to our princes, to our fathers, to all the people of the land, because we have sinned against thee. We are a seed of evil-doers, and have sinned times and ways without number, from our youth until now. Our sins have been committed against the clearest light and the richest mercy, against the remonstrances of our own consciences, and in the face of our solemn vows. Thou hast written to us the great things of thy law, and given to us the exceeding great and precious promises of thy gospel; but we have undervalued thy mercies and thy judgments, and despised the riches of thy forbearance in Christ Jesus. Behold, O Lord, we are vile, and what shall we answer unto thee, O thou preserver of men? Our own hearts condemn us, and thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. Justly mightest thou condemn us to reap the fruit of our own doings by removing our privileges from us, and pouring out thy wrath upon us as individuals and as a people, even unto the uttermost. But thou art God and not man, therefore we are not consumed. There is mercy with thee that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption that thou mayest be sought unto. Thou hast no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, but rather that he should turn to thee and live; and thou hast made thine own Son to be sin for us, though he knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. O Father of mercies, work in us now before thee all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power. Wash us all in the blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than the blood of Abel. Pardon our iniquities, for they are very many, and heal our souls, which have greatly sinned against thee. And O gracious God, do thou rescue us from the dominion of sin. May we hate it with a perfect hatred. May we shun those paths in which destroyers go. May the Spirit of all grace persuade and enable us not to live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. And we beseech thee grant that, having our hearts established in thy fear and love, and our goings in the ways of thy

commandments, we may go on from strength to strength, unwearyed, conquering and to conquer all our spiritual enemies. O Lord, fill the hearts of the rulers of our land with thy fear; and let all the ends of the earth see thy salvation. Bring the wickedness of the wicked to an end. Establish universally the way of the just. Be the friend of our friends. Forgive our enemies, and teach us to forgive them. Supply the wants of the poor; heal the diseases of the afflicted; save the souls of the dying; may we learn to die. Accept of our thanks for the kindness of last night. Thou hast permitted us to take quiet rest, and hast caused us to dwell in safety. May our souls, and all that is within us, be stirred up to magnify and bless thy name. Give us this day our daily bread. And may the Lord be our sun and shield, and bless our lying down and our rising up, from henceforth even forever. Hear these our imperfect prayers, forgive our many sins, save us with an everlasting salvation; and unto thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, shall we ascribe glory, majesty, and dominion, world without end. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—2 TIMOTHY IV.

WE will extol thee, our God, O king. We will bless thy name, forever and ever. Every day will we bless thee, and praise thy name, forever and ever. Thou didst at first create us out of nothing, and thy merciful visitation upholds our souls in life, our bodies in health; keeps our eyes from tears, our feet from falling; makes the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over us. How precious have been thy thoughts towards us, and how great has been the sum of them; we cannot reckon them up in order before thee; if we would attempt to speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. O that our hearts were filled with thy love, and our mouths were filled with thy praise, and that as every day brings fresh proofs of thy loving-kindness, every day may see us devote ourselves anew to thy love and service. Eternal thanks be to thee, O God of Abraham; because when we had rebelled against thee, and exposed ourselves to thy just and eternal indignation, thy thoughts towards us were thoughts of love, and thou didst lay help upon one mighty to save. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up for them an horn of salvation in the house of his servant David. And blessed be he who came in the name of the Lord to save us, who though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. O let not the manifestation of thy mercy be in vain with regard to any of us. If yet in vain, as thou hast been graciously pleased to lay the chastisement of our peace on Christ, grant that by his stripes we may all be healed. Adopt us into thy family. Make us heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. Search us, O God, and try us, and see what wicked ways are in us, and lead us in

thy way everlasting. May we live as children of the promise, having our treasure in heaven, and our hearts also there, and following those things which are pure, and honest, and lovely, and of good report. And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, make us perfect to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight. May we not deceive ourselves with a name to live, whilst we are dead. We earnestly pray for all mankind. Have respect unto thy covenant, for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. Revive thy work in our own land in the midst of the years; in the midst of the years make known; in deserved wrath remember mercy. Bless our friends with all temporal blessings, but especially let their souls prosper before thee. May they all be thine in that day when thou makest up thy jewels. Be very gracious to the afflicted. As their day is, so may their strength be. Jesus, the son of David, have mercy on them; send them strength out of Zion, and if they are appointed unto death, may they be prepared for heaven, and at length fall asleep in Jesus. Teach us so to number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. Watch over us for good this day. May all our wants be supplied; and may we be taught to praise thy goodness in the land of the living. Uphold our goings in the ways of thy testimonies, that our feet may not slide, and command thy blessing upon us, even life that shall never end, and righteousness from the God of our salvation, for all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XI.

O LORD, we adore thee as the high and holy One who inhabiteth eternity, and the praises thereof. Thou art seated on a throne high and lifted up; thy train filleth the heavenly temple. Ten thousand times ten thousand angels excelling in glory and strength, veil their faces with their wings, whilst they cry day and night, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, the whole earth is full of thy glory. Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou visitest him? What are we, or what has our fathers' house been, that we are permitted to approach so great and holy a Lord God. Lo! the heavens are not clean in thy sight; thou chargedst thine angels with folly; how much more abominable is man, who drinketh iniquity like water. Adored be thy name, that by the death and ascension of Jesus, a new and living way is opened; whereby we may come with boldness to thy throne, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in every time of need. For thou hast made him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Heavenly Father! we draw near unto thee at this time, to thank thee for thine unspeakable gift, Christ Jesus; and for all the glorious hopes which through

him we are permitted to cherish. We rejoice that he died for the offences of his people, and rose again for their justification; and that through him pardon, and peace, and eternal life are freely offered, even to the chief of sinners. O may it be given to each of us, in the behalf of Christ, to believe on his name; and believing on him, may we be united to him, as branches of the true vine, and receive pardon, peace, sanctification, and every blessing. Shine upon us with the light of thy countenance; and give us peace, even that peace which passeth all understanding, to keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. May we put off the old man with his deeds, and put on the Lord Jesus, and walk in him, being rooted and grounded in love. Keep us from every evil, and especially from sin. Cleanse us from secret faults. Keep us back from all presumptuous sins, that we may be upright, and free from the great transgression. May we serve thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, that in the ages to come, even through the ages of eternity, we may show forth the riches of thy grace, and thy kindness towards us, through Christ Jesus. Save thy people everywhere, and bless thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up forever. And may those that love the Lord Jesus, be more of one heart and of one mind. May there be no divisions among them. Satisfy our friends early with thy loving-kindness, and uphold them with the right hand of thy righteousness. May they all at last return, and come to Sion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. Be near to those that mourn in every time of trouble; and may affliction work the peaceable fruits of righteousness in them that are exercised thereby. Teach the living and the strong to remember, that although they live many days, and see good in them all, the days of darkness are coming, and that these days may be many. Be with us during this day, and all our days, and never leave us nor forsake us, but lead us in the paths of righteousness, for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—TITUS I.

O LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who faintest not, neither art weary; there is no searching of thine understanding. By thy word were the heavens made, and all the hosts of them by the breathing of thy mouth. Thou didst speak, and it was done; thou didst command, and all things stood fast. And this day they stand as thou didst ordain them, for they are all thy creatures. All thy works praise thee, and thy saints bless thee. Worthy art thou to receive glory, and dominion, and power; for thou hast created all things; and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. But in the glorious work of redemption, thou hast especially abounded towards us in all wisdom and prudence. Mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have embraced each other. All we like sheep had gone astray, we had turned every one to his own

way, but thou hast laid upon Christ the iniquities of us all. O the height and the depth, the breadth and the length, of the love of God, in Christ Jesus, it passeth knowledge. Do thou who didst at first command the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts, giving us the light of the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ, whom not having seen, do thou enable us greatly to love, and in whom though now we see him not, yet believing, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory. And beholding as in a glass, the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, may we be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. We are insufficient for any good word or work, for it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. But do thou sprinkle us with clean water, and we shall be clean; work in us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure; and make us meet to become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Save our souls with an everlasting salvation. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered, and let those that hate him flee before him. Let thy way be made known in the earth, and thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O Lord; let all the people praise thee. Comfort and bless our friends. Keep them as the apple of thine eye. Be their portion in the land of the living, their refuge in the time of trouble, their shield and exceeding great reward. Keep us in safety during this night, O thou Shepherd of Israel, who slumberest not, nor sleepest, and to whom the darkness and the light are both alike alway. And all the days and nights of our appointed time may we wait until our change comes; and may an abundant entrance be administered to each of us into thy heavenly kingdom and glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XVI.

O LORD our God, we, and the whole race to which we belong, have been idolaters. It is thine unalienable prerogative to claim and to receive the homage of worship; and thou wilt not give thy glory to another. Yet we have given this glory to our idols; we have been guilty of fearful idolatry, in giving to the creature our trust, our supreme love, our worship, and our service, and we have sought from the creature our happiness. Thou hast justly been offended with us, and hast pronounced on us a fearful curse. We were, in the persons of our first parents, cast out from thy presence to the wilderness of a state of rejection and misery. We have lost thy favor, communion with thee, and all the blessings flowing from thy gracious person; and we have merited the fate of the Canaanites, who were devoted to the curse which their iniquities deserved. As sinners, we are polluted in our blood, guilty, and already experiencing the infliction of many wounds. We are destitute of righteousness,

naked, defenceless, and exposed to shame and wretchedness; and there is no eye to pity, nor hand to help. O convince us thoroughly of our sinful and miserable condition; and lead us to cry to thee, God, be merciful to us sinners. Adored be thy name, thou didst pass by us in thy sovereign love and mercy, and thou saidst, Live; yea, when we were in our blood, thou saidst, Live. Thou didst form and reveal the purpose of giving up thine only-begotten, thy beloved Son to death. Thou didst lay on him the iniquity of us all, and hast redeemed us from the curse, through his being made a curse for us; and we adore thee he has said, Because I live, ye shall live also. Grant us to attain to the life of pardon and justification, to the life of grace in our souls, that we may come eventually to the enjoyment of the life of glory in heaven. We are exposed to many injuries and hardships, O do thou spread thy covering wings over us. Fulfil thy promise, I will spread my skirt over thee; say unto us, Fear not, I am thy shield, and thine exceeding great reward. Wash us with the washing of regeneration, and anoint us with fresh oil. Pour down thy Spirit on our souls, as the Spirit of truth and of holiness, of wisdom and of might, of supplication, adoption, and consolation, that we may have in us a savor of Christ, and be thoroughly furnished to every good word and work. May our feet be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; that we may be prepared for the hardships of the warfare, and of the enemy. We give ourselves up to thee, to serve thee, and to be sanctified and saved by thee; and we take thee to be our God, Redeemer, and Portion. Make with us an everlasting covenant, swear unto us, and make us thine; and enable us to make with thee a covenant by sacrifice, even the sacrifice offered on Calvary. Keep us from being unfaithful in thy covenant; let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, the Son of man whom thou hast made strong for thyself, so henceforth we will not go back from thee. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy fear to shine, and we shall be saved. Let thy way be known on the earth, and thy saving health to all people. Make known thy salvation to the heathen; let the people praise thee, let all the people praise thee. Rend asunder the veil from the hearts of the seed of Abraham; and gather the dispersed of Israel, in their conversion to God, into one. Prosper the efforts which are made in their behalf, and let their restoration be like life from the dead to the Gentiles. Let thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Let the whole earth be filled with thy glory. Now unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be honor, glory, blessing, and praise, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—TITUS II.

WE approach thy majestic throne, O thou who dwellest in the heavens, who art the creator and the preserver of all things, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the God of our sal-

vation. Reveal thy glory in us, and let the apprehension of it produce its proper effects on our spirit, temper, and whole character. In the light of thy holiness may we see our deep depravity, and cry out, Woe is me, for I am undone, for I am a man of unclean lips, for I have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Let the glory of thy justice promptly impress our souls with a sense of guilt and danger, that we may, in saving awakenings of conscience, confess, against thee, thee only, have we sinned, and in thy sight done evil. O may the glory of thy majesty annihilate our pride, subdue our ambition, and cause us to lie in the dust before thee. Adored be thy name for the humiliation of the Son of God, his substitution, obedience, righteousness, triumphs, intercession, and salvation. Behold, O God, our shield, and look on the face of thine Anointed. Unite us personally to him who is the Lord our righteousness; and let his Spirit dwell in us as a well of living water, springing up to eternal life. Form, and strengthen, and render active in us, all the graces of the Holy Ghost. May faith be in us, directed to its proper object; may we look to him whom we have pierced, and mourn, and be in bitterness for our sin. May faith be in us, working by love, purifying the heart, and overcoming the world. Create in us a clean heart, renew in us a right spirit; inspire us with a spirit of wisdom, of meekness, of holiness, and of zeal. Blessed be thy name for the dispensation of grace, in the ministry of reconciliation, under which thou hast placed us. Make thy servants the honored instruments of turning many sinners from darkness to light, from death to life, from the bondage of Satan, to the liberty of the sons of God. Appoint faithful shepherds over the flock of Christ; ministers over thy people who will rightly divide the word of truth; watchmen in the towers of Zion, who will faithfully blow the trumpet, and warn the people as from thee. Clothe thy priests with righteousness and salvation; bless the provisions of Zion, and cause the saints to shout aloud for joy. Bless each one of us, in our respective ages and relations. May the youth remember their Creator; may they love thee, and thou wilt love them; may they seek thee early, and they shall find thee. May the aged not be found standing idle in the market-place at the eleventh hour, but diligently working while it is day, faithfully bearing the burden and the heat of the day, that when the service is finished they may enter into the joys of their Lord. May the servants in serving their earthly master, serve Christ. Let great grace be vouchsafed to us all, that it may bring to each one of us salvation, and effectually teach us what to deny, what to practise, and what to hope for. May we indeed deny iniquity, live godly, and look for the blessed hope of Christ's second coming without sin unto salvation. Let the light of this salvation shine on them who sit in darkness; may the Lord God give them light, that they become true worshippers, and bind their sacrifices with cords to the horns of that altar which gives value and acceptance to any offering presented on it. Exceed all our supplications in the Beloved. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XVII.

WE come with the deepest self-abasement, and prostration of our souls, into thy presence, O our God. We have sinned against thee exceedingly, and done dishonor to thy holy name. All our sinfulness in conduct has proceeded from our hearts. How deceitful and desperately wicked are they! And there is more wickedness in our hearts than has ever appeared in action. Thou hast kept us back from much sin, into which our lusts, our pride, our selfishness, our covetousness, our enmity, and our unbelief, would have plunged us. Evils past numbering compass us about. Yet, blessed ever be thy holy name, we are encouraged to pray. God be merciful to us sinners. Pardon our iniquity, for it is very great. Create in us a clean heart, renew in us a right spirit. We flee to thee to cover us. Clothe us with the robe of righteousness, the garment of salvation. Reconcile us to thee through the death of thy Son; and enable us to say, in faith and love, Surely in the Lord have I righteousness and strength. O do thou form, and maintain, and increase in us all the graces of the Holy Ghost, all the parts of the Christian temper. Write thy law in our hearts, and put thy statutes into our inward parts, and then our obedience to thy law will be natural, certain, and constant. The character of our inner man being moulded and formed according to the principles of holiness, the conduct of our outer man shall be framed in truth and in righteousness. Leave us not to be, like Israel, unfaithful to our promises and our vows, and to violate the oath of thee our God. Let us not transgress thy covenant, or turn to Egypt for help. Adored be thy name, thou hast not permitted our fierce enemy to rule over us. Thou hast not afflicted us according to our sin. But delay of judgment is not pardon of sin; the suspension of the curse is not peace with God. We feel that there is in us an evil heart of unbelief, which departs from thee the living God, and we have been perfidious in thy holy covenant. O let not our sin work thy wrath against us. We cannot expect that thou wilt continue to cause the light of prosperity to shine upon us if we continue to transgress thine oath, and turn to Egypt, and forsake thee our God. Thou hast many means, ready and powerful, by which thou canst turn our prosperous state into mourning. In the day of thy east wind do thou stay thy rough wind. In the midst of deserved wrath, remember mercy. Behold, O God, our shield, and look on the face of thine Anointed. Behold us in Christ with a pleasant countenance. Uphold our goings, that our footsteps may not slip. Keep us as the apple of thine eye, and in the hollow of thine hand. Wilt not thou, who saved our souls from death, keep our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling, and enable us to walk before thee in the land of the living. Have mercy on the afflicted; know their souls in their adversity; make their bed in their sickness; and purify them in the furnace as gold seven times purified. Spare us our lives, and prepare the dying for entering into

the world of spirits. Give Christ actually, according to the promise, to be the light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Upon them who sit in darkness let light arise. Let thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—TITUS III.

THOU, O God, art the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God. We confess that we have been rebels against thee our God, and injurious to our fellow-men. Woe is unto us, for we have sinned. We have been foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and passions, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. The sanctions of the law are set to guard the precepts; if the precepts are violated, the sanctions must be borne. We have times without number transgressed all the precepts of the law, and, therefore, we are under its fearful curse; as it is written, Cursed is every one who continueth not in all the things which are written in the book of the law to do them. This curse we cannot avert by any deeds or sacrifices of our own. We cannot, by any works of righteousness of ours, obey the precept, much less can we expiate our guilt, and turn away the curse. Our case is helpless; in our hands it is desperate. Our destruction is, for all that we can accomplish, remediless. Wrath has gone out against us. Adored be thine ever-blessed name, thou hast made thy love and kindness appear in Christ, and in thy word. According to thy mercy, which is rich, free, sovereign, mighty, immutable, eternal, thou hast provided salvation. Infinite mercy has found for itself an infinite expression; infinite mercy in God has provided an infinite sacrifice in Christ. Through the channel of his most blessed mediation, pour out the influences of the Holy Ghost upon us, and impart the blessings of the new covenant to us. Wash us by the washing of regeneration, and justify us truly by thy grace. Constitute us thy redeemed children, put us into their state by adoption, and form in us their nature by regeneration, and thus make us the heirs of the hope of eternal life. Make us faithful in all the relations of life, zealous for the advancement of thy glory in the earth, living epistles of Christ, seen and read of all men. Believing the testimony of thy holy word, may we be careful to maintain good works. Help us, through grace, to be faithful unto death, that we may receive a crown of life. Cause men to press into thy kingdom, to strive to enter in at the strait gate, and to walk in the narrow way which leadeth unto life. Do thou add to the church, day by day, such sinners as shall be saved; and make them a people which, in time past, have not been a people. On all the glory of Zion do thou create a defence. Be a wall of fire around Zion, and the glory in the midst of her. We commit ourselves to the guardianship of thy gracious providence during the approaching

hours of sleep. O thou who keepest Israel, who slumberest not nor sleepest, grant us refreshing rest, even the sleep which thou givest to thy beloved people. May we commune with our hearts on our beds. May we lie down and take quiet rest, because thou causest us to dwell in safety; and whatever time we awake, may we still be with thee. Do more for us than we are able to ask or think of, in Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XVIII.

O LORD, we desire to appear in thy presence as humble suppliants, confessing our sins, deprecating thy wrath, and imploring thine unmerited mercy. We acknowledge that we are less than the least of thy mercies; that as we were at first born in sin and conceived in iniquity, so as thou hast been adding to the number of our days, we have increased the multitude of our offences. But we rejoice, O Lord, that though in ourselves we are sinful and polluted, though we are unworthy to lift up our hands and eyes to heaven, thou hast regarded our lost estate, laid our help on him who is mighty to save, and sent down from heaven the Son of thy love, not, as our guilty fears might have suspected, to condemn the world, but as a Messenger of peace and reconciliation, to assure us of the mercy of heaven, and to make way for the exercise of such distinguished mercy by assuming our nature, by suffering in our stead, and by his obedience unto death, purchasing for us eternal life. Open, O God, the eyes of our understandings, that in the cross of Christ we may see the wonders of redeeming love. May we esteem it a faithful saying, highly credible in its nature, and on our part worthy of all acceptance, that Christ came into this world to save sinners. May we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus; and may it be our main concern how to win Christ, that when we come to die, we may be found in him, clothed with his righteousness, and heirs of his salvation. We pray for all our brethren of mankind. May all our fellow-men be fellow-Christians; and may they who are already Christians in name, be also Christians in nature. Accept of our united thanks for thy goodness in sparing us through the last night, and raising us up in health and comfort to see the light of another day. Fit us for all its duties, and trials, and events. And after doing and enduring thy will on earth, may we at last enter into that rest which remains in heaven for the people of God. Gracious God, pardon all our sins, and hear in heaven these our humble prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—PHILEMON.

O LORD, we desire to close the day, and the week, with offering up our humble tribute of thanksgiving for all that goodness and mercy which thou hast made to pass before us. Thou art our great Creator, our constant Preserver, and bountiful Benefactor. To thee we are indebted for the form and fashion of our bodies; for the nobler powers and faculties of our souls; for every comfort that we enjoy in a present life; and for the better things that we look for beyond death and the grave. For thou hast not limited our views in this short and transitory scene; but, by the death and resurrection of thy beloved Son, hast brought life and immortality to light; and hast assured us, that they who fall asleep in Jesus shall at death pass into a state of blessedness, large as their wishes, and lasting as eternity. Help us all, O God, to live worthy of our Christian privileges, and of our Christian hopes. May we labor less for the bread which perisheth, and more for that which endureth to everlasting life. May we regard the salvation of our souls not as a secondary, but as a primary concern. May we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, that all other things may be added thereto. May we lay up treasure in heaven, which moth and rust do not corrupt, which thieves break not through to steal, that when this earthly tabernacle is dissolved, we may have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. With ourselves, O God, we pray for all mankind; we pray for their spiritual and eternal welfare. May the whole world know that God so loved it as to send his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Look down in mercy on the sick and the distressed. Sanctify affliction wherever it is sent. Supply the wants of the poor and needy. Spare young and useful lives for farther usefulness. And, Lord, be with the dying, and fit and prepare them for death, and for its awful consequences, judgment and eternity. Pour down thy Spirit and blessing on this house and family. Bless the heads of it, and make them blessings to one another. Bless the children; may they be all children of the promise, and heirs of the grace of God. Bless the servants; may they be faithful and conscientious, not with eye-service, pleasing men, but remembering that we have all a great Master in heaven, to whom we must give account. We thankfully acknowledge thy goodness through the past day and the past week. Pardon wherein we have offended thee, or come short of our duty. Take us under thy care and watchful providence during the night; and if it be thy will to spare us to see the light of another day, prepare us for the solemn duties of the ensuing sabbath. We put our whole trust and confidence in thee our God. Never leave us, never forsake us. Be our God and our guide, our guardian and our friend, in every step of our pilgrimage on earth; and when our course is finished, may we at last all see the salvation of God. These our prayers we now present to thee, in the name of Jesus, thy Son, and our Saviour. Amen.

Forty-Fourth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CXIX. 97-120.

ALMIGHTY God, we adore thee as the parent of universal nature ; as the Lord of heaven and of earth ; as the Father of angels and of men. We bless thee, that having made of one blood all the nations that dwell upon the face of the earth, thou hast so ordered the circumstances of our lot and life, as that we should be born in a Christian land, that we should enjoy the advantages of a religious education, and that, from our earliest years, we should have access to the scriptures of truth, which are able to make us wise unto salvation. We bless thee, that we have been familiarly acquainted with the mysteries of redeeming love ; that wonderful work of God, which many prophets and patriarchs desired to see, and to hear, but were not permitted. For all the powers and faculties of our reasonable nature, and for all the expressions of thy kind paternal providence which we have received in the course of our lives, we desire to offer up our humble tribute of thanksgiving. But more especially would we bless thee for that unmerited, unparalleled grace which thou hast displayed in our redemption ; in sending down from heaven the Son of thy love to suffer, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. May it never, O God, be our condemnation, that light has come unto the world, and that the light of the gospel has shone in our land ; and that we love darkness rather than light, because our deeds are evil. Open the eyes of our understanding, that we may understand the scriptures. Convince us of sin, by the effectual operation of thy Holy Spirit. Convince us not only of our sinful life, but of our sinful nature. Enlighten our minds in the knowledge of Christ, that we may appreciate his excellence, and appropriate his blessings. And having received Christ Jesus the Lord, may we walk in him ; may we be enabled to show our relationship to Christ, and our interest in his atoning blood, by a growing resemblance to his divine image, and a growing obedience to his holy will ; by having our fruit more and more unto holiness, that our end may be everlasting life. With ourselves, O God, we would pray for all men ; and on this, the morning of thy sabbath, we would pray for their spiritual welfare and prosperity ; that the interests of pure and undefiled religion may flourish ; that wherever the gospel is this day preached, it may be accompanied with power, and be the effectual means of opening the eyes of mankind ; of turning them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to the service of God. We thankfully acknowledge thy goodness, in sparing us through the last night, and in permitting us to see the light and comforts of a new morning, and of a new sabbath. Fit and prepare us for the various duties of thy day. Go up with us to thy house of prayer. Help us

to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. May we receive the truth in the love of it. May we lay it up in our hearts, practise it in our lives. Most gracious God, we commit ourselves, and all our interests, into thy hand. Be thou our God through life, our guide till death, and at last our portion for evermore. Father of mercies, pardon all our sins, and do for us more abundantly than we can ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CXIX. 121-144.

MOST gracious God, we rejoice in it as our highest honor, and as our noblest privilege, that we are permitted to approach in prayer the supreme majesty of heaven and of earth. We rejoice that thou art now in Christ Jesus reconciling a guilty world to thyself, and not imputing to mankind their trespasses. We rejoice that now is the accepted time, that now is the day of salvation. Lord, teach us highly to value the advantages of grace and salvation which we now enjoy. In this, the day of our merciful visitation, while we are spared in the land of the living, and in the place of hope; while we have access to the means of grace, and to the offers of salvation; in this our day of mercy may we seek the things that belong to our eternal peace, ere they be forever hid from our eyes. Awaken us all to a serious concern for our welfare in eternity. Help us to mind the one thing needful. Whatever else in this vain and perishing world thou art pleased either to grant or to deny, deny us not thy grace. Help us to gain an interest in Christ, and to find that better part, that part which shall never be taken from us. May we never be foolish enough to attempt establishing a righteousness of our own, but may we cheerfully and gratefully submit ourselves to the righteousness of God. Under a deep sense of our unworthiness and guilt, we would place all our hopes of mercy, and all our pleas for salvation, upon the atoning blood of thy beloved Son. May we experience the blessedness of that man whose sin is covered, whose transgression is forgiven, and to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. And may we ever live as becomes them who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of the living God, and who are raised to the hope of glory, honor, and immortality beyond death and the grave. With ourselves, O God, we pray for all mankind. We pray especially for the cause and kingdom of Christ. Extend the boundaries of the Mediator's kingdom. Give him the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. We pray for the success of the gospel in our native land. May grace, mercy, and peace, be upon all who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity. We pray especially for that worshipping society with which we are connected, and beseech thee to follow with thy blessing the religious exercises in which we have this day been engaged. Bless the word spoken. May the entrance of thy word give

light, and life, and joy; and in our future pilgrimage, amid the snares and dangers of an evil world, may we take thy word to be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our paths. May we run with patience the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the majesty on high. Accept of our united thanks for thy goodness through the day. Take us under thy watchful providence through the silent watches of the night. May we lie down in thy fear. May we rise in thy favor. May we be at all times safe under the protection of the Almighty. And all that we ask is in the name, and as the disciples, of Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XIX.

ACCOMPANY with thy blessing, O Lord, the reading of thy word. We believe that whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning. Teach us to read savingly and to profit. From the dispensations of thy providence, as well as the precepts of thy law, may we learn wisdom. May we remember that thou afflictest not willingly, nor grievest the children of men; but that thou correctest for our profit, that we may be partakers of thy holiness. Let us not then despise the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when we are rebuked of him. When thy judgments are in the earth, may we learn righteousness. Nor let us despise the riches of thy goodness, and long-suffering, and forbearance; but may thy goodness, which we so constantly and so largely experience, lead us to repentance. May thy mercies move us to present ourselves living sacrifices unto thee, which is our reasonable service, and thus may all things work together for our good. We would bless thee, above all, for thy love to the world, manifested in the incarnation, sufferings, and death of thy Son. Let it not prove our condemnation that he came to seek and save that which was lost, and yet that we despised and rejected him; but may he be precious to us as he is to all that believe, and may we so receive him as to become the children of God. May all men become partakers of the like precious faith. May the light of the glorious gospel shine into those dark corners of the earth which are still full of the habitations of cruelty, and into the darkened understandings and polluted hearts of all who are alienated from thee by reason of the ignorance that is in them. May the disobedient be turned to the wisdom of the just, and thine erring and offending children to thee their Father in heaven. We pray for all whom we ought to remember before thee. Be the friend of our friends; forgive our enemies; relieve the distressed; comfort the mourner; strengthen the weak; encourage the timid; satisfy the doubting; succor the tempted; awaken the careless; turn the sinner. We thank thee for thy preserving care, for the rest and re-

freshment of the night, and for the light of a new day. Keep us ever mindful how deeply we are indebted to thee. May we acknowledge thee in all our ways, and then thou wilt direct our path. Fit us for the duties of the day, keep us from evil, and preserve us by thy power through faith unto salvation. Hear us for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be the praise forever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS I.

WE desire to bless thee, O Lord, for the various discoveries of thy being, perfections, and government, made to the world; but above all, that thou who, in times past, spakest to the fathers by the prophets, hast in these latter ages spoken unto us by thy Son. We would thank thee that he appeared as the only-begotten of the Father, full alike of grace and truth; that in him were hid all the treasures of wisdom and of knowledge; and that out of his fulness he so freely communicated to the world, having spoken as never man spake, and given an example of having fulfilled all righteousness. We bless thee that he came not only as the light of the world, but also by himself to purge our sins, and by one offering of himself, to perfect forever them that are sanctified. We would rejoice that, having suffered for the offences of his people, he rose again for their justification, and is now set down at the right hand of God, exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins; that he is Head over all things to the church; that his throne is forever; and that he is ever the same, without variableness or shadow of change. We have reason to acknowledge that we have not received his instructions with that reverence, nor observed his example with that care, nor embraced his atonement with that thankfulness, nor bowed to his authority with that submission, which are so justly due. Pity, O God, our blindness to our own best interests. Pardon our perverseness in thus despising our own mercies, and rejecting the counsel of God against our own souls. Save us from slighting so great a Teacher, so perfect an example, so costly a sacrifice, so righteous a King; but may we humbly, thankfully, joyfully, receive him in all his offices, lest he be angry, and we perish from the way. Extend the blessings of the gospel to all lands. May that kingdom which is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, be universally and everlastingly established. May more understandings be enlightened, and their hearts purified, by the knowledge of thee the only true God, and of Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, whom to know is eternal life. Be merciful to this place with which we are more immediately connected. Pity those who are far from thee, who desire not the knowledge of thy ways, or who, professing to know thee, in works deny thee. May thy truth and love pierce and soften their hearts, so as

to make them willing and obedient. Strengthen, establish, settle, all who love thy name. May they adorn the doctrine they profess, and shine as lights in the world. Preserve the young from being enticed by the error of the wicked. Prepare the aged and the dying for their change. Keep us all mindful that it is appointed for all men once to die, and that after death there is the judgment. We thank thee that thou hast added another day to our lives, and for what of thy goodness we have experienced. With all thine other givings, give us, we pray thee, grateful and affectionate hearts. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse us, O God, from secret faults, and let no sin have dominion over us. We would now commit ourselves, and all for whom we ought to pray, to thy care, through the silence of the night. We would lay us down in peace, humbly trusting that thou wilt make us to dwell in safety. Be our guide and guardian until death, in death our support, and after death our portion forever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XXII.

WE bless thee, O Lord, for the instructions and warnings, for the counsel and reproof of thy word. May that portion of it which has now been read prove life and spirit to our souls. Give us to behold ourselves in this glass, and let us not be of those forgetful readers or hearers who go away and straightway forget what manner of persons they are; but looking steadfastly unto this perfect law of liberty, may we continue in it, and so be blessed in our deed. May thy word and Spirit convince us of sin. When we read or hear of the offences of others, may we be led to think of our own. May each feel the plague of his own heart, and the errors of his own life, princes and rulers, prophets and priests, magistrates and subjects, parents and children, masters and servants. May we feel the evil and danger of sin, so as to confess it not merely with our mouths, but with that real contrition and sorrow which will work repentance not to be repented of. We rejoice to hear that with thee there is mercy that thou mayest be feared, that with our God there is plenteous redemption. Pardon, O God, all our sins, and let them not rise in judgment against us. Turn us, that wherein we have done wrong in time past, we may do so no more. We adore thee that, in order to give the penitent full assurance of faith, and that the heirs of promise might have strong consolation and good hope, thou hast found One to stand before thee in the breach, that thou shouldst not destroy them. May we be found in him as our covert from the storm, and hiding-place from the tempest. May his blood cleanse our souls from the guilt, and our hearts from the love of sin. We thank thee for sparing mercy. It is because we have obtained help of thee that we continue to this day. May each returning day find us wiser and better, more pure, more heavenly-minded, more kindly

affectioned, more humble, meek, and patient, more watchful against temptation, and more fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. May we this day walk with thee, ever remembering that thou, God, seest us. May we behave as seeing thee who art invisible, and walk wisely in a perfect way. May thy truth have free course and be glorified. May ignorance and error, superstition and sin, in all their forms, be destroyed by the breath of thy mouth and the brightness of thy coming, and may thy reasonable creatures everywhere offer thee a reasonable service. Be merciful to all according to their need. Bind up the broken-hearted; give liberty to the captives, the opening of the prison-door to them that are bound; enlighten the ignorant; reclaim the erring; confirm the wavering; and say to the faint-hearted, Be strong. Hear us in these our prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS II.

DISPOSE us, O God, to give earnest heed to thy word, as to a light that shineth in a dark place. May we receive it into a good and honest heart, reverencing it not as the word of man, but as it is in truth the word of God, which worketh effectually in them that believe. May it dwell richly in us in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, enlightening our minds, rejoicing our hearts, converting our souls, and making us wise unto salvation. May the authority of Christ awe us, and his love constrain us, to listen reverently, obey unreservedly, and rely implicitly. We adore thee that he who was in the form of God humbled himself, and was found in fashion as a man; that by his death he has destroyed him that had the power of death, and given the victory to as many as receive him; that having conquered, he has ascended most gloriously far above all heavens, that he might fulfil all things, and can still be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Having such a High Priest over the house of God, we would draw near thee with humble confidence to obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need. May we love thee who first so loved us. May we love him who gave himself for us, to wash us from our sins, and redeem us to God by his own blood. May our love abound in knowledge and in all judgment, that being rooted and grounded in it, we may walk in love, and be followers of thee as dear children. May that gospel which breathes not the spirit of bondage unto fear, but the spirit of power, love, and of a sound mind, reach every land, and gladden every heart. Hasten the time when, in this sense, the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose, when man shall be blessed in Christ, and call him blessed. Remember us of this place with that favor which thou bearest to thine own. Visit us with thy salvation, that we may see the good of thy chosen, and rejoice in the gladness of thy nation. May all of every rank and age

fear thee and thy goodness, and remember that blessed is that people whose God is the Lord. Enrich us with the wisdom that is from above. We thank thee for the mercies of this day. Thou givest liberally and upbraidest not. May we ever feel that we are thine. Pardon, O God, our errors and imperfections. What we know not in this respect, do thou teach us; and when we have done wrong in time past, enable us to do so no more. Be with us, and with all in whom we are interested, in our lying down and our rising up, in our going out and our coming in. Show us thy way, teach us thy path, and keep us, soul, body, and spirit, unto the coming of Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XXXIII.

ALMIGHTY God, before whom our fathers walked, and in whom they trusted, and who art ever the shield and great reward of such as serve thee with a perfect heart; we now present ourselves at thy footstool, to bless thy name, and give thee honor and thanks for thy past bounty and present goodness to us as individuals, a household, and a people. We bless thee, that thou hast been as a wall of fire around our country, our city, and our home; that we have neither been debarred from rest, nor risen to sorrow, by hearing that either has been smitten with the sword, or with the pestilence. Justly mightest thou have judged us, every one after his ways; made our land most desolate, and the pomp of our strength to cease, because of all our abominations. But we are living witnesses of thy grace, forbearance, and want of pleasure in the death of the wicked. Bless the watchmen whom thou hast counted faithful, to be set on the walls of the city of our solemnities. May they be as signs by which our Zion shall be called, sought out, a city not forsaken. May they be circumspect against sin; and feel that they are themselves as a city set upon a hill, and that many wait for their halting, talking of them by the walls and in the doors of the houses. Make them jealous for thy honor, zealous in thy truth; men who seek the things of Christ; his commendation and reward; and free alike of fearfulness in reproving slothfulness in labor, and of shame on account of the testimony of the Lord in the afflictions of the gospel. Save them from being misled by the apparent docility of multitudes who sit as thy people sit, and hear thy words, but do them not. Far be it from us this day, to sin wilfully, and to make shipwreck of faith. Wean us from whatever exercises an undue ascendancy over our hearts. May we be found all our days walking in the statutes of life without committing iniquity. May we receive grace daily now, and be received to glory hereafter through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS III.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, who art the builder and Creator of all things; and who of thy great mercy hast had compassion on thy sinful and erring creatures, and hast condescended to make some, in all ages, partakers of thy heavenly calling, and to dwell among them as thy household; we bless thee, that thou hast visited us from on high with that light of life which bringeth salvation to all who receive it with lowly and thankful hearts. Teach and enable us, we implore thee, to fix our ardent and reverent contemplation on Him who is the brightness of thy glory, and the Captain of our salvation, and who by one sacrifice of himself has purged our sin. As thou hast highly exalted him in honor above every name, and put all things under him, may his name and honor be precious to us above every interest, and may we make every wish and purpose subordinate to his holy will and glory. May thy love and mercy manifested in Christ, be the only ground of our confidence, and our chiefest joy. United to Christ as our Head, may we be one in thee, O Father, and in thy Son, that we may be witnesses to the world that Christ has come from thee, and that we are of the many sons that he is bringing unto glory. Make us daily partakers of Christ, of his excellent knowledge, of his holy mind, of his spiritual gifts; and by thy power through faith, may we be kept, holding the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. Keep us from secret faults, save us from presumptuous sins. Let us not grieve thee, as did those who saw thy work, but did always err in heart. From the deceitfulness of sin and of our evil hearts, forever preserve us by thy good Spirit. Qualify us, by the graces of holy love and zeal, to exhort others, lest they be hardened from thy way; and in this our household may we mutually suffer the word of exhortation. Raise up in thy church faithful stewards of thy mysteries, and stir their hearts to hallowed jealousy for thy glory. We would, by prayer, constrain thee, saying, Abide with us this and every night. May the length and strength of our days be consecrated to thee; and may we be enabled at the close of life, with a hope full of immortality, to commend our spirits into thy hand. May we then sleep in Jesus, and be satisfied with thy likeness when we awake. Hear us in thy grace, we beseech thee, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XXXVI.

HOLY Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, we thank thee that albeit thou dwellest enthroned in light, to which we cannot approach, yet thou hast condescended to reveal thyself to us, thy re-

bellious children, by the inspiration of thy good Spirit, in prophets and apostles, and, above all, in thy only-begotten Son, who is the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person. We rejoice that in and by him we can see thee, O Father, and learn all that thou art, and all the purposes of thy love toward our wretched and guilty race. We rejoice to know that thou wilt not that any of us should perish; that even now thou afflictest us not willingly, and that the chastisement of our sins is with the view of making us partakers of thy holiness. We acknowledge that thou hast been ever righteous in all thy proceedings towards us, and that it is of thy infinite grace that we have not been consumed. Thou hast appointed us the bounds of our habitation, and the circumstances of our lot, with a view to our good and the glory of thy great name. If we have wisdom to guide our steps; if we have, day by day, the meat that perisheth; if we have power to get wealth; if we ever remembered our doings that were not good, and loathed ourselves for them; if we have yet trusted in Christ, or, as candidates for glory, honor, and immortality, exercise, however feebly, watchfulness, patience, and self-denial, and desire to follow Christ in the regeneration, we owe it all to thy grace, and would say, Not unto us, not unto us, be the praise. Be pleased to begin, and if begun, to fulfil in us the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power. Save us from self-delusion, from trusting in ourselves that we are righteous, from resting in any fancied attainment, from making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience, and from becoming the reproach of the foolish. May our minds be moulded after that of thy Son, may we be all taught of God, and may we feel, in our daily transformation into thine image, the verification of those promises of a new heart, and of the indwelling of thy blessed Spirit, of which we have at this time read in thy holy word. May thy promises excite in us ardent desires and unceasing prayer to become heirs of their fulfilment, and more and more partakers of that divine nature which is the evidence of our having been born from above. Be surety for thy servants for good during this and every other day. May we use the world as not abusing it; and although in the world, may we never become identified with those who are of it. As they who are in thy house are still praising thee, may we, possessed of that peace which Christ giveth to his own, and with the testimony of our conscience to our godly sincerity, be glad in thee all our days. May we see on earth the good of thy chosen, and be guided by thy Spirit to the land of uprightness. Be pleased to grant us these blessings, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS IV.

ALMIGHTY God, who art the author of life, and the inexhaustible fountain of all mercies, we bless thee for that goodness which thou didst manifest to mankind when the works were finished at the cre-

ation of the world. We with sorrow acknowledge our grievous sins, by which we have forfeited thy gracious favor, and that divine rest of blessedness and joy, passing all understanding, which was originally possessed in the enjoyment of thy fatherly love, and of filial confidence in thy holy presence. How can we worthily admire that manner of love which did triumph over the indignation and wrath which our transgressions had so justly deserved, and which has opened to us a door of return, to become thy children again by faith in Jesus Christ thy Son? When we seriously consider our past folly and sin, and think of those to whom the gospel was preached, as well as unto us, and who perished with the land of promise in their view, we would fear, though a promise is left us of entering thy rest, lest any of us should come short of it through unbelief. As thou art saying to us, To-day, if you will hear my voice, harden not your hearts; may we strive to enter in, and labor to make our calling and election sure. May we, by the indwelling of thy Spirit in our hearts, grow daily in enlarged understanding of the unsearchable riches of thy grace; in the mortification of every sinful affection; in hatred of all envious and uncharitable thoughts; in freedom from all disturbing passions; in a more unfeigned and lively faith in things unseen and eternal; in submissive acquiescence in the appointments of thy holy will; in weaned humility of mind; and in a visible transformation into the image of thy Son. Ever defend us by thy grace from the snares which beset our path; and give us not up to the misleading influence of a world lying in iniquity, nor of those inclinations which darken our minds so that we venture on presumptuous sins. Pardon, good Lord, what thy holy eye has seen impure in our motives, or sinful in our thoughts, words, and acts, this day. When we look back on the events of this day, we have reason to fear that we have been more earnestly laboring for the things which perish in the using, than in laying up durable riches at thy right hand; and that it has been more with fleshly wisdom than under the guidance of that which is from above, that we have had our conversation in the world. Yet we would look to thee to whom all things are naked and open, and would, though with jealousy of ourselves, presume to say, in the spirit of thy servant of old, Lord, thou knowest that it is our desire to love thee and to keep thy commandments. Good Shepherd of Israel, and God of Bethel, spread thy covering wing over us, and over those whom we bear on our spirits, and over our common interests this night. Guide us through life; be with us in the valley and shadow of death; and receive us afterwards to thy glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XXXVIII.

GRACIOUS God, we approach thee at this time with deepest reverence, and in the name of Christ. For his sake vouchsafe the unction of the Holy Spirit, that we may learn practically and singly

those lessons of heavenly wisdom which every portion of thy word is fitted to convey. We bless thee, that although we were conceived in sin, and have been transgressors from the womb, and deserve nothing but to be left to perish under our deeply aggravated guilt, thou art still manifesting, by thy forbearance with us, that thou hast no pleasure in our death. May we be made willing, in a day of thy power, to lay down the weapons of our rebellion, to renounce the service of sin, to take thee in Christ as our covenant God, and to surrender ourselves to thee as thy covenant people. Form us for thyself by thy grace and Spirit, that we may show forth thy praise, and thus give glory to thy name, before our feet stumble on the dark mountains. Sanctify to us thy dealings in providence, whether apparently favorable, or adverse, and grant that they may work together for thy glory in our good. Blessed be thy name, that while thou hast forewarned thy people that in this world they shall have tribulation, yet thou assurést them that thou wilt chasten them only for their profit, that they may be partakers of thy holiness, and that their light afflictions shall work out for them a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Enable us, in every hour of peril and distress, to rejoice in believing that thou sittest King on every flood; that thou wilt lay no burden upon thy people, beyond what thou wilt enable them to bear; that thou wilt glorify thyself in delivering them in the best time, and in the best way, even in thine own time, and in thine own way. We thank thee for the circumstances in which we are now permitted to compass the family altar. May our spared lives be devoted to thee, and may we know sensibly the preciousness of thy grace, which helpeth in the time of need. Be very gracious to all who are dear to us; be propitious to every interest and concern in which we should feel interested and concerned. Sanctify afflictions to the afflicted, and bereavements to the bereaved; and may we be more and more fitted by every dispensation of thy providence and grace for leaving this world of sin and sorrow, and entering into the joy of our Lord, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS V.

O LORD our God, cause our souls to live, that we may praise thee for all the mercy, and goodness, and truth, which thou art day by day making to pass before us. We would now set up another stone of remembrance, and call it by the name of Ebenezer, and say, Hitherto hast thou helped us. At the same time we would acknowledge, with shame and sorrow, how greatly we have forgotten thee the God who made us, and how lightly we have esteemed the Rock of our salvation. O deliver us from the fool's heart, which saith thou art not, and enable us to endure as seeing thee who art invisible. Enter not into judgment with us, but look upon us in the face of

thine Anointed, and deal with us in him as thou seest our needs to require, and not as our sins deserve. We bless thee that he has been appointed by thee to the high office of Mediator, and that by his voluntary obedience unto death he magnified thy law, and satisfied thy justice, and thus wrought out a righteousness so perfect and meritorious, as to be the infallible ground of pardon, and acceptance, and eternal life, to all who rely on it by faith. May we confide implicitly in him as our great High Priest; submit cheerfully to his instructions as our Prophet, and receive him cordially as our King. Blessed be thy name, that there is milk provided by thee for those who are only babes in religion, as well as strong meat for such as are more advanced. Send forth thy Holy Spirit's light with thy truth, that we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Christ, in proportion to the means which are afforded us. May we yield an implicit faith to all that thou revealest, and a willing obedience to all that thou commandest. And with respect to those mysteries of thy word, which though not contrary to our reason, are yet above it, may we with profoundest adoration say, O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! We commit ourselves and all whom we ought to bear upon our spirits, to thy care this night. May thy sleepless eye be upon us, and shine for good. Let our rest be refreshing, that we may be strengthened in body, and invigorated in mind, for the duties and trials of a new day, if it be thy will that we should see it; but whatever be thy will respecting us, Lord, prepare us for it, and make us resigned to it, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XXXIX.

WE bless thee, O Lord, that thou art still seated on a throne of mercy and grace with respect to us, and that this fact is of itself sufficient to convince us, not only that thou hast mercy and grace in store for sinners, but art ready to bestow them in a kingly way upon us. Grant us a felt nearness to thee at this time, and may thy Holy Spirit make intercession in us, that we may have the comfortable assurance of Christ's making intercession for us. We unite in offering our morning sacrifice of thanksgiving for thy watchful care of us during another night. We lay down and slept, and rose to see the light and enjoy the comforts of a new day. In the exercise of genuine faith and unfeigned repentance, we desire to approach the fountain of redeeming blood, that our consciences may be purged from guilt, and that we may be put into a capacity of serving thee better, and loving thee more than ever we did. Remembering that none have hardened themselves against thee and prospered, we pray that thou wouldst pour out thy Holy Spirit upon us, to subdue our naturally proud and rebellious hearts, and to mould us into conformity to thy will; and may we know the great peace which they

have who love thy law ; may we know thy name in Christ, that we may fear thee and hope in thy mercy ; and may we know our covenant-relation to thee in him, that we may be encouraged, by our experience of thy past care, to trust thee more for future need. We rejoice to believe that thou restest in thy love to thy people, and that when thou permittest troubles to befall them, it is for the purpose of correcting and sanctifying them, and of bringing the graces of thy Spirit more fully into exercise in them ; and we rejoice in believing, also, that when thou seest it to be more for thy glory and their good, to allow the waters of affliction to deepen, thou wilt make the sources of their consolation to open, and enable them to go forward, resigned and undisturbed, though they should see no cessation to the tempest but in the tranquillity of the tomb. Grant us grace to fall in with thy gracious designs in all thy dealings towards us ; and may we be cheered during the days of our sojourn here below, by the good hope, that when time to us shall be no more, an abundant entrance shall be administered to us into that world where no tears shall bedim our eyes, nor pangs of anguish gnaw our hearts, but where our happiness shall be inconceivably great, without alloy, without interruption, and without end. We adore thee in the judgments which thou executest on the enemies of thy church and people. Deliver not the souls of thy people to the multitude of the wicked. Have respect unto thy covenant, and visit the dark places of the earth, and of sinners' hearts, with saving light ; and may our adorable Redeemer sway his sceptre of grace and authority over those who have hitherto been rebellious. Enable us this day to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, which is so short, and uncertain, and precious. Keep us watchful unto prayer, lest we fall into temptation. Teach us more clearly our duty, and give us the needful grace to perform it. Vouchsafe to us the light of thy countenance, and preserve us from everything that might occasion the withdrawal of it, that we may be harmless and blameless, the sons of God without rebuke, and that others, seeing our good works, may glorify thee our heavenly Father. All that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS VI.

GRACIOUS and ever-blessed God, with deepest reverence we desire to prostrate ourselves before thee. By the new and living way which has been opened up in the gospel we would approach unto thee ; the helpful influences of thy Holy Spirit we implore from thee. We thank thee for this renewed opportunity of singing thy most worthy praise, of reading thy most blessed word, and of calling upon thy name by prayer. It is but a small portion of our race on whom thou hast conferred such invaluable advantages for eternity as we enjoy. But wherefore is it, O our God, wherefore is it that, when

thou didst most reasonably look that we should bring forth corresponding fruit, our grapes have been the grapes of Sodom, and our clusters the clusters of Gomorrah? Justly might the dread mandate go forth against us, Cut them down, why cumber they the ground? But spare us, O Lord, spare us yet a little longer, till we acquaint ourselves with thee, and be at peace. Be merciful to us, O our God, be merciful to us, and heal our souls, for we have sinned against thee. Let thy hand be upon the Man of thy right hand in our behalf, and may he be made unto us, as he is unto every one that believeth, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. May thy Spirit descend to purify our hearts from the deep moral depravity which naturally pervades them, to implant in us the principles, and affections, and desires of a new nature, and by his continued and powerful operation, to support, and cherish, and mature them, until we bring forth all the fruits of righteousness. We rejoice to believe that wherever thou hast begun a good work, thou wilt perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Hold up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps may not slip; and when at any time, through the remaining corruption of our nature, and the violence of temptation, we may fall, let us not be utterly cast down, but do thou graciously restore our souls, renew us to repentance, and keep us by thy mighty power through faith unto salvation. O grant unto us the consolation and support which arise from the good hope through grace, that when time to us shall be no more, we shall enter into the joy of our Lord. Prepare us, on this preparation evening, for the duties of the ensuing sabbath. Send help out of Zion to thy faithful servants; and may thy people take no rest to themselves, nor give rest to thee, until thou makest Jerusalem a praise in the midst of the earth. Be gracious to all whom we ought to remember before thy throne, according as their several and varied cases may require. Be unto them, and unto us, a sin-pardoning, a heart-sanctifying, a soul-refreshing, a covenant-providing, a faith-strengthening, a hope-inspiring, a prayer-answering God, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Forty-Fifth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CXIX. 145-160.

O LORD, enable us now to approach thee in prayer, with spiritual reverence and living faith. We desire to be enabled to adore thee with spiritual understanding, as the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being. And we desire to be enabled to adore thee in spiritual faith, as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus

Christ, who hast begotten thy people again unto a lively hope by his resurrection from the dead. On this morning of thy holy sabbath, we desire to be enabled to look by faith at the place where the Lord lay ; and whilst we endeavor thus to see the empty sepulchre of our redeeming Lord, may our hearts look upward to him as now exalted as a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to sinners like us, and the remission of sins. O Lord, we can neither of ourselves spiritually know, nor spiritually repent of our sin. Grant to us, we pray thee, a spiritual view of our condition. May we discern our sin, and all our sin, and feel the exceeding sinfulness of sin. O how our hearts are naturally alienated from the life of God ; how we worship the creature, and live to ourselves ! And, O Lord, who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean ? No man, and no one but that Spirit who, we rejoice to know, is free to the chief of sinners. O may he apply to us the washing of regeneration. May he sanctify and restore us to thee. May he purge our consciences from dead works, and make us truly alive to thee, and enable us to walk by faith, and to walk in the way of all that holiness, without which no man shall see thee in glory. Bless to us and to all, for conviction of sin, for sanctification of heart, and for revival in holiness, the means of grace to be used on this holy day. May the Spirit of the Lord speak to souls this day by his servants, with convincing, converting, and edifying power. May the word read and preached this day, be quick and powerful, and prove a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And may many humbled souls this day find Jesus to be precious, and be quickened and qualified, through his imparted grace, henceforth to follow him, in new obedience, and in all duty, through good and through bad report. O take us into covenant with thee ; save us from our own spirit, and from the power of the world, and from the power of Satan. May Satan's power in human souls be overcome through the word and the Spirit of him who is stronger than he ; and Jews and Gentiles throughout the earth become regenerated and obedient subjects of Jesus. O may our fellowship be every hour with thee, and our hearts in everything devoted to thy glory. Gracious and Almighty Father, hear our prayer, and bless us abundantly, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CXIX. 161-176.

O LORD, we are indeed unworthy to take thy holy name into our lips. Do thou grant us the Spirit of grace and supplication, and quicken us to call upon thy name. We know not our own hearts, but thou, O Lord, knowest them ; they are deceitful above all things, and thy word assures us that the imaginations of their thoughts are by nature evil continually. Give us grace to know ourselves. Prevent us from saying peace, peace, to our souls whilst we may be living without holiness and without thee. Incline and fit us for the

work of self-examination. What we have read or heard of thy word this day, enable us to apply faithfully to ourselves. May we know and remember well, whatever of this searching and sanctifying word is specially applicable and suitable to our case. O may thy Spirit take of the things of Christ, and show them unto us; may he search our hearts by his searching word. May it be indeed spirit and life to our souls. And then, O Lord, may it be as a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. May we ever apply to it as our guide, and read and meditate on it daily, our minds ever inquiring, Lord, what wilt thou have us to do? And, alike in health, and in sickness, in prosperity, and in adversity, may its precious promises, and precepts, and spiritual views, be sweet to our taste; yea, sweeter than honey to our mouth. And may he whose word it is, he who is the life and the light of men, be ever regarded by us as the chief among ten thousand and altogether lovely. O may we have grace steadily to realize our life hid with Christ in God. May we really be, and have the blessedness of, steadily realizing ourselves as being members of the Redeemer's body, of his flesh, and of his bones. And may we live by that faith without which it is impossible in one thought, or word, or deed, to please thee. May we truly live as not of this world, and as truly feeling that we are not our own. And, in solitude, and in society, in leisure, and in business, may thy Spirit ever maintain in us that love to thee, and to all, which is the fulfilling of the law. As instruments of righteousness in the hand of the Spirit, may we faithfully discharge every duty, temporal and spiritual, which we owe to every one, in their several places and relations. And do thou guide us every day, and guard us every night, and to us fulfil thy promise, I will never leave thee, and I will never forsake thee. When we would wander from thee, do thou graciously arrest and restore us again; and with enlargement of heart, enable us, to the end, to run in the way of thy commandments. Hear, Lord, our prayer, and grant us all we need, to fit us fully to serve and glorify thee, for the sake of him who is all our righteousness, and our all-prevailing Intercessor. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XLIII.

MOST gracious and most merciful Father, be pleased to regard us with compassion, as we now around our family altar offer up our morning supplications. Let thine ear be open to the cry of thine erring and feeble children, as now conscious, in some degree, of our great sin. We prostrate ourselves before thy throne, and confess that we have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and are not worthy of thy favor. The Lord be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause the light of his countenance to shine upon us. The Lord pardon our iniquities, for they are very great. Look upon us in

Christ; see us in the face of thine Anointed; and for his sake blot all our sins out of the book of thy remembrance. Blessed be thy name, O Father of mercies, for that great love wherewith thou hast loved us. Herein indeed was love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us, and gave his only Son to be our propitiation. Kindle within our souls a flame of affection to him who suffered and died for us. Touch these hearts, which are naturally cold and dead, as with a live coal from off thine altar, and give us to say of Jesus, He is precious to our souls; he is to us the chief among ten thousand, and altogether lovely. And O grant us an interest in his sacrifice, and give us the testimony of thy Spirit with our spirit that we are members of the household of faith, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. In thy great mercy, O Lord, thou hast highly favored us. Ours is a land of bibles, and sabbaths, and sanctuaries. The Sun of righteousness has risen above us with healing beneath his wings, revealing to us the path that leads to everlasting light. O let the preaching of the gospel be profitable to our souls; may we all feel it to be the power of God, and the wisdom of God to salvation. May the word which was yesterday spoken to us not soon be forgotten, but may its beneficial effects be visible in our conduct, causing us to abstain from all ungodliness, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in the present evil world. Forbid that it ever should be said of us that light has come into the world, and that we love the darkness rather than the light, our deeds being evil. But may we walk as the children of the light and not of the darkness, remembering that we are not our own, but bought with a price, even the precious blood of Christ; and therefore are bound to glorify God with our bodies and spirits which are his. Let thy presence and blessing rest upon us this day. May all the members of this family walk as becometh those who are called by the name of Christ. Counting the days past more than sufficient to have been working the will of the flesh, and that henceforth we shall live not to ourselves, but to the God that redeems us. And may our humble morning prayer rise with acceptance before thee, for the sake of him in whom our trust is placed, even Jesus Christ the Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS VII.

To whom else, O Lord, can we go but unto thee, thou only hast the words of eternal life. Thanks be to thee for that freedom of access which we have to thy throne through Jesus Christ our great High Priest. We bless thee that thou didst think upon us in our lost condition, and didst send thy Son to seek and save us. We thank thee that he became bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, that in the very form in which the sin had been committed, in the same form should the atonement be made. Let our souls be washed in that fountain which was opened in Israel for sin and uncleanness.

Let us all have an interest in that atoning sacrifice which Jesus offered when he expired on Calvary. We bless thee for the guidance and protection which thou hast extended towards us during the day now drawing to a close.* In the house, and by the way, thou hast been our guardian; and in the midst of a multitude of dangers which our eye could not see, nor our arm arrest, we have walked in safety, thou the Lord sustaining us. O what shall we render to the Lord for all his goodness, and for his works of wonder done to the children of men! Our souls and all that is within us would be stirred up to praise and magnify the Lord, for he forgiveth our iniquities, he healeth our diseases, he crowneth us continually with loving-kindness and tender mercies. This night, O Lord, ere we close our eyes in slumber, we would make acknowledgment of the many sins and shortcomings which have this day marked and characterized us. Our conduct has often been inconstant as it was inconsistent. Our light has not always been shining, our principles have not always been practised, our aim has not always been to promote thy glory, our very imaginations have been evil in thy sight. O deal not with us according to our merits, but according to thy mercy; for if thou wert to reward us according to our deeds, thou wouldst assuredly cut us down as cumberers of the ground. For the sake of our dear Redeemer, blot our transgressions out of the book of thy remembrance. And be pleased, O Lord, to grant unto us an enlarged measure of grace, that henceforth we may live not to ourselves, but to the God that redeems us; that the light of our Christian profession may so shine, that others seeing our good works may be led to glorify thee our Father in heaven. O give us to feel the constraining influence of the love of Christ, conforming us more and more to that blessed example he has set us, and causing us to be followers of those who through faith and patience are now inheriting the promises. Most holy Father, thou who rulest and upholdest all things, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, take us this night under thy peculiar care. Let thine arm be around us as a protecting shield. Let no harm come near our dwelling-place. We go to our repose confident in this, that he who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. May we meet together in peace and health on a new morning, with hearts filled with gratitude for all thy tender mercies. Graciously hear our evening supplications, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—EZEKIEL XLVII.

O THOU eternal and ever-blessed Jehovah! look down at this time from thy heavenly throne, and accept the imperfect services of us who are now assembled before thee. O Lord, we acknowledge that we cannot plead any merits or services of our own to entitle us to the high privilege of coming into thy presence; and we confess our

inability to seek thy face in an acceptable manner. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. Our best services are tainted with sin, and every day has added to the weight and number of those iniquities which attach to our character. Were it not that thou hast graciously promised to forgive our sins, and to hear our prayers, we should not dare to hope for acceptance when we cry to thee. But pleading the merits of Him whom thou hearest alway, we venture to approach thee; and we earnestly beseech thee, O Lord, to be very merciful to us sinners. Show us the value of a Saviour's love. Enable us to accept of Christ Jesus in all his offices, as our Mediator and intercessor. Help us to rely simply on his blood, and to repose all our confidence in his gracious advocacy. May we no longer regard thee as an enemy, but may we rejoice in thee as our best and most powerful friend; feeling that being justified by faith we have peace with God. Strengthen our weak faith. O Lord, give us grace to resist our temptations and to withstand our spiritual foes. Vouchsafe to us a perpetual sense of thy presence, that we may at once fear to offend thee, and love to serve thee, and enable us ever to live near to thee. Shed abroad in our hearts the sacred influences of the Holy Spirit, that so the good seed of thy word and gospel may grow up unto perfection in our experience and history. And may we never be content with inferior attainments, but be still led to press forward unto the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We thank thee for the cheering intimations of thy holy word, that a period of universal holiness, and peace, and joy, is approaching, and though at present men are too generally sunk in ignorance of thee, and in a state of sin, that we are permitted to look forward to an era in which the bright glory and happy dominion of our exalted Saviour shall be hailed by all tribes and tongues throughout the habitable globe. We bless thee for the progress which the gospel has already made, and is now making; and we beseech thee to hasten the time when the small stream of gospel light and liberty issuing from the temple of God, shall spread and deepen till it covers the earth as the waters cover the channels of the sea; when thine ancient people shall see their guilt and apostasy, and shall humble themselves, and return unto thee from whom they have deeply revolted, and when it shall be said to thy ransomed church, Arise, shine, for thy light is come; the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. O stir up among all thy professed servants an ardent desire to advance the cause of the gospel. Increase the number and the zeal of thy ministers, for the harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few; and bless whatever means are employed consistently with thy holy will, for advancing the enlargement of thy Son's kingdom. Pour out upon all thy people a Spirit of grace and of supplication, and may they not cease to cry unto thee until thou hast established, and till thou hast made Jerusalem a praise in the earth. And now, O Lord, we beseech thee, to take us, and all who are dear to us, under thy peculiar care and protection during this day. Keep us in thy fear, defend us from our temptations. Enable us to redeem the time, and to advance with diligence in the narrow way that leadeth unto life, and may this day be thus rendered a means of preparing us for

meeting thee at death, and at the bar of judgment. And do thou graciously hear and accept of us, for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS VIII.

O THOU eternal and ever-blessed Jehovah, the God of all the families of the earth, behold us thy servants prostrating ourselves before thee, this evening, as humble suppliants of thy mercy. Wherewithal shall we come before the Lord, or bow ourselves before the Most High God. Behold we have no merits to plead, no rights to demand. We must cast ourselves, as we now do, on thy undeserved mercy vouchsafed unto us through the mediation of thy blessed Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ; who hath given himself a ransom for us, and through whose intercession thou seest neither iniquity in Jacob, nor perverseness in Israel. We thank thee, O Lord, that thou hast so graciously visited the lost and ruined race of Adam, by the mission of thy Son into the world, and hast through him bestowed upon us so many privileges, and so many promises. Without thy mercy thus manifested in him, how sad must have been our condition, how miserable our prospects! And when we meditate upon thy love, we desire to feel the warmest sentiments of gratitude to thee the Father of mercies, and to him the Fountain of every blessing. Forbid, we beseech thee, that we should continue to live in forgetfulness of thee, or that the love we owe thee should fail to be manifested in our lives. Let us not be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. O grant us true repentance, and so impress us with the danger of our natural state, and with thy hatred of iniquity, as to induce us henceforward to live in the exercise of the principles of our holy faith, and under the powerful impression of our obligation to devote ourselves to thy service. Behold what manner of love thou our Father in heaven hast bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God! Grant us grace, we entreat thee, to be followers of thee, as dear children, and to honor thee in our thoughts, words, and actions. We commit ourselves to thy care during this night. May we lay us down in thy fear, and arise in thy favor; and may we be fitted by the repose of the night for a diligent and faithful discharge of duty on the morrow. Look in kindness upon all who are dear to us. May we all be united under Christ Jesus as our common head, our elder brother, our best and truest friend. Bless all who belong to the household of faith, especially those of the same parish and congregation with ourselves. Grant that the holy religion of the cross may produce its happy fruits in rich abundance among us. May vice in all its degraded forms give place to the holiness, and peace, and joy of the faith of Jesus; and may old and young, rich and poor among us, learn to be faithful to the cause of our blessed Master. Extend the influence of our

holy faith among all nations, and may all the ends of the earth remember and turn unto the Lord. Gather thy people Israel into thy fold. Stir up a spirit of prayer on their behalf among all who know thy name, and send forth many faithful and devoted ministers to proclaim in every quarter of the globe the unsearchable riches of Christ. These our humble prayers, O Lord, are before thee. Hear us, we beseech thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—DANIEL I.

WE desire to unite this morning, O Almighty Father, in adoring thy perfections, and in thanking thee for our continued preservation, and for all our mercies. But, O Lord, we confess we have been too long ungrateful and disobedient. In vain had thy perfections been manifested in thy works of creation and providence; in vain had the gracious invitations of the gospel been proclaimed to us. We too long and too frequently continued to follow after the devices and desires of our own hearts. We rejected thy counsel, and would none of thy reproof. But thou wouldst not cast us off forever. Thou didst graciously continue to invite us to the knowledge and reception of thy truth, and we are now permitted to approach thy throne through the mediation of that adorable Redeemer whom thou hearest always. O may our gratitude to thee be permanent and practical! May the goodness of God lead us to that repentance which needeth not to be repented of. May the grace of God, which bringeth salvation, teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lust, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. Teach us the comparative value of time and of eternity. Enable us to make the only wise choice between them; and in seeking for heaven, may we not forget that thou requirest of us to resist temptation in whatever form it may assail us, and to renounce sin, however pleasing to our natural propensities. May the example of thy youthful servants, of whose faithfulness we have just been reading in thy holy word, encourage us to maintain our devotedness to thee in the midst of a crooked and perverse world; and may we be ready, at all times, to make whatever sacrifices thou mayest see meet to demand, in order that we may bear our faithful testimony to the purity and holiness of thy law, and to the justice and supremacy of thy demands. Watch over us this day for good; defend us from all our enemies; encourage us in resisting temptation; and enable us to walk as in thy presence, and to live continually to thy glory. Give us the same mind which was also in Christ, that we may be humble, forgiving, and patient. Lord, bless, we beseech thee, all whom we love. Bless our friends and relations everywhere. May they be thy friends, united with thee by a living faith, and with us by stronger ties than nature or earthly affection can supply; and when at last the purposes of thy providence are finished with us, one by one, upon earth, may

we meet to part no more in the glorious abodes which are prepared for thy servants in the land of heavenly promise. Bless the parish and congregation to which, in thy providence, we belong. May religion, pure and undefiled, flourish among us. In every heart and in every family do thou preside. Discourage the works of darkness and of vice. Strengthen the better principles of thy people, and shed abroad thy holy Spirit upon them. Visit with the supports and encouragements of thy grace thy servant who ministers among us in holy things, and may he experience the true happiness of a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Bless and prosper thy universal church. Spread her boundaries from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. Bless especially our beloved Zion. Stir up in her ministers and people a more ardent zeal for thy honor and glory, and render her an instrument of extensive usefulness both at home and abroad. Give prosperity to all the measures adopted by her courts for advancing the interests of the gospel, and cheer the hearts of thy servants by establishing the work of their hands in thy cause. We beseech thee to hear these our humble prayers for the sake of Christ Jesus, whom thou hearest always. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS IX.

O ALMIGHTY God, the Creator and Governor of the universe, who, though infinitely exalted above the conception of men or of angels, condescendest to invite us into thy presence, and to accept our humble prayers, regard, we beseech thee, with kindness and grace, us, thy unworthy creatures, who now approach thy footstool that we may adore thy infinite perfections, and claim thy favorable regards. We plead no merits nor services of ours in thy holy presence. We know that we are all as an unclean thing, and that our very righteousnesses, are as filthy rags. But we plead the merits of that divine Redeemer, who was made under the law, that for us transgressors he might fulfil it, and who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. We plead thy acceptance of his vicarious righteousness, and we joyfully rest in the assurance that his finished work has amply satisfied thy justice, and opened a way to heaven for all believers. Teach us, O Lord, to come to Jesus for pardon and peace, for strength and holiness. Justify us by his blood, and sanctify us by his Spirit. Draw us and we will run after thee. Work thou in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Grant us repentance unto life, and the various graces of thy Holy Spirit. May he dwell in our hearts by faith, that so we may be rooted and grounded in love, and be enabled to comprehend, with all saints, what is the height and the depth, the length and the breadth, of the love of God in Christ Jesus. Subdue the numerous enemies who on

every hand are waiting for our halting. Fortify us against our temptations, which are too strong for our unaided power to resist with success. Keep us humble, watchful, and prayerful. May we never think we have attained, either are already perfect, but still press forward towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We desire to thank thee for thy kindness to us during the course of this day, and for the comfortable circumstances in which we are permitted this evening to assemble before thee. We would lay us down this night with the most perfect confidence in thy protection. Thou never slumberest nor sleepest, neither wilt thou suffer thy servants to fall into any real evil. May we be refreshed by the repose of the night, that we may the better pursue our Christian course on another day. Protect, we beseech thee, all our dear relatives and friends. Bestow upon them in this world the knowledge of the truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. May they and we be brought in safety through all the dangers and temptations of this mortal existence, till at last we arrive at the blessed kingdom above, to dwell together in thy glorious presence forever and ever. Prosper thy cause in the world. Send the glad tidings of salvation through all the nations of the earth. Let the offers of thy gospel speedily reach both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free; and may the time soon come when there shall be one fold and one Shepherd, and when in all the holy mountain of the Lord there shall no longer be anything to hurt or to offend. Bless all thy faithful ministers. Give them true knowledge of thy word, and enable them to adorn the doctrine of our God and Saviour, and to be an example to all the flock. Make them wise to win souls to Christ. May thy servant who ministers to us in holy things be abundantly honored by thee in all his duties, and may the fruits of his exertions, accompanied by thy Spirit, be abundantly manifested in our community. Accept these our humble and united prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—DANIEL II.

O God, our God, thou art very great. Thou art clothed with honor and with majesty. Thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment; thou makest the clouds thy chariot; thou walkest on the wings of the wind. Who would not fear thee, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy. May our souls be filled with sacred awe, while in prayer we draw nigh the footstool of thy mercy. Be pleased, O Lord, to give us vivid and exalted conceptions of thy matchless glory, that we may feel the solemnity with which it becomes us to approach thy throne, and to present to thee the tribute of our adoration and praise. May we now be privileged to enter into thy presence-chamber, and to hold direct converse with the King of kings and Lord of lords. And while engaged in holy worship, may

all our thoughts and desires be supremely fixed on thee, so that under the elevating and sustaining influence of the Spirit of grace and supplication, we may be enabled to enjoy close communion with thee, and to feel assured that thou art the hearer of prayer. O thou who art the preserver of men, what shall we render to thee for having watched over us so graciously during the silence of the bygone night, and for having brought us in safety, in peace, and in comfort, to the light of another day? Hadst thou dealt with us as our iniquities deserve, thou mightest have turned the season of our repose into a time of misery; have scared us with dreams, and terrified us with night visions. We are reminded, in the portion of thy word which we have now perused, that thou hast access to the spirit of men, and that thou observest all its impressions and thoughts by night as well as by day. Thou art thus bearing testimony to thine own presence and omniscience, as the invisible Jehovah; and by the terror awakened in the guilty soul, art rebuking the atheism and idolatry of our fallen nature, and bidding the unbeliever to consider and know that thou, and thou only, art God. May we ever bear in remembrance that it is in thee we live, and move, and have our being. We desire, O God, to rejoice in thy special providence. Thou takest knowledge of all the secret motions of our mind, as well as of our words and actions. Nothing escapes thine omniscient eye. Thou takest special notice of whatever relates to the welfare of thy people, or that bears on thy kingdom and glory. The evil designs of the wicked are known to thee. And we bless thee who markest the schemes formed by the ungodly for the destruction of thy church, and in due time dost signally defeat them. Verily thou art our refuge and our strength, our very present help in trouble. O God, in these times of danger do thou in mercy interpose in behalf of thine own cause. With thee nothing is impossible. Thou canst make the wrath of man to praise thee, and restrain the remainder thereof. We rejoice, therefore, that under the protection of the great Head of our church, all its interests are safe. Hasten, O Lord, the time when the stone cut out without hands shall smite every idolatrous image, and become a great mountain, and fill the whole earth. May we live to behold the dawn of the latter day glory. May our souls be completely delivered from atheism and idolatry, and be made temples of the Holy Ghost, that this day, and henceforth, we may live wholly to thy praise. Wash us from all our iniquities. Clothe us with Christ's righteousness, and beautify us with his salvation. And all we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS X.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; the whole earth is full of thy glory. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. The heavens are not clean in thy sight; thou chargest thine angels with

folly. Shall mortal man, who drinketh in iniquity like water, be therefore just with God? O do thou impress our souls with this awakening consideration. May we, in the light of thy holiness, clearly see own guilt and depravity. Behold we are vile, and what shall we answer thee? Our hearts condemn us, and thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. Wert thou to mark iniquity against us, who, O Lord, could stand? The angels who surround thy throne veil their faces with their wings while contemplating the glory of thy eternal holiness. Lord, teach us how deep ought our self-abasement and our penitence to be. We feel that we are all sinfulness together, and utterly unworthy to take thy holy name into our polluted lips, or to lift up our eyes to the place where thine honor dwells. Under an overpowering sense of our guilt and corruption, we desire to make a full and unfeigned acknowledgment of our transgressions, and smiting upon our breasts, to say, God be merciful to us sinners. We bless thee, O God, that thou hast not left us to perish in our iniquities. We rejoice in the tidings of mercy which the gospel has brought to our ears. O do thou savingly reveal to each of us the adorable Redeemer who came in the name of the Lord to save us. May we now, and ever, honor him as the High Priest of our profession, in whose name alone we can have access to thy throne, and through whose merits alone we can hope for pardon and eternal life. Help us to cast the heavy burden of our sins upon him, and trusting in his blood and righteousness, to enter into a state of peace and reconciliation. May we experience the constraining influences of his redeeming love, while we contemplate his willingness to undertake our cause, and to suffer and die, to atone for our guilt. Believing that he has finished the work of our redemption, may we joyfully embrace his righteousness, and know assuredly that his blood cleanseth from all sin. O do thou, for his sake, seal pardon on the conscience of each of us. Say to the trembling soul, Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee. And having washed our robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, may we be enabled to live as the redeemed of the Lord. Having boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us through the veil; and having an High Priest over the house of God, may we draw near with a true heart, in the full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. May the Holy Spirit perform his own blessed work in our souls. May he make us living temples of the holy God. May he sanctify our whole nature, and fit us for thy kingdom and glory. And now that another day is gone, never to return, and that this night may be our last, may we experience the blessedness of a personal interest in the atoning sacrifice, the righteousness, and intercession of Christ, so that, living or dying, we may as individuals, and as a family, be the Lord's. Extend to others the blessings we have implored for ourselves. May all men take refuge in the only name through which we can be saved. And now to thee the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, we would ascribe all blessing and glory. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—DANIEL III.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only living and true God. To whom shall we go but unto thee; thou only hast the words of eternal life. We desire therefore ever to view thee in Christ Jesus as our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. Our lot is cast in perilous times. We live in an age, and in a country, in which multitudes are combined to resist thy authority, and to overthrow thy righteous cause. Our hearts tremble for the safety of the ark of the covenant. Thy church, O blessed Saviour, that church which thou hast loved with an everlasting love, and purchased with thy blood, is cast into the fiery furnace of persecution. The hand of power is lifted up against her to inflict a fatal blow. Her adversaries mock at her sabbaths; and treacherous friends forsake her in the hour of peril. But we rejoice that thou who hast all power in heaven and on earth, reignest, and that thou art faithful to thy promises. O be graciously present with thy church amidst all her tribulations. Say to her, When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flames kindle upon thee; for I am the Lord thy God, the holy One of Israel. Grant that when the enemy cometh in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord may lift up a standard against him. Be thou a wall of fire around our Zion, and the glory in the midst of her. Suffer no weapon formed against her to prosper. And may she be, in due time, brought out of the furnace, as silver that is purified seven times. We pray that we, individually, may have grace to be faithful even unto death. Amidst the afflictions and bereavements of life, help us to look up to thee for strength and consolation. May we experience the tenderness of thy care and sympathy. Thou art a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Thou hast graciously said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Adored be thy name for this endearing promise. And using it aright, may we lean on that arm which is never weary, and on that bosom which is never cold. And may the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, of holiness, and love, dwell in us, and guide us safely into heaven. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS XI.

WE desire, O God, to approach thy throne of mercy, this evening, in the belief that as a father pitieth his children, so doth the Lord pity them that fear him. Thou hast given us innumerable proofs of thy fatherly compassion. With thee is the fountain of life.

From thee cometh down every good and perfect gift. What heart can conceive, or what tongue can express, the extent of thy benignity, or the tenderness of thy love? From thy redeeming mercy has originated that wondrous scheme of salvation, which in the fullness of the time Christ Jesus, thine only-begotten Son, died to accomplish. From thee also, proceedeth the grace which is necessary to bring in to the possession and enjoyment of this great salvation. We lament, O God, that whilst thou hast amply provided for the welfare of our never-dying souls, that we have been hitherto so blind to the glory of thy grace, and so indifferent to thy claims on our faith, and gratitude, and holy obedience. Unbelief has exerted a blighting influence on our souls. How prone are we to question the tidings of great joy which have reached our fallen world, and in the reception of which alone we can obtain spiritual life and healing. How slow to believe the testimony concerning thy Son. How unwilling to renounce our own righteousness, and to submit wholly and unreservedly to the righteousness of God. Thy power alone can subdue our evil hearts of unbelief. We earnestly plead that that power may be put forth for our salvation. With thee nothing is impossible. Do thou, who hast with a word, hast created the world, create a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. Do thou, O compassionate Redeemer, who didst give sight to the blind, open our understandings to understand the scriptures. And O thou Holy Spirit, whose office it is to glorify Christ, and to apply the benefits of his redemption, be pleased savingly to enlighten our souls, and to sanctify our hearts, and so to work in us effectually the work of faith with power, that like the saints of old, we may set our seal to God's testimony that he is true. O do thou increase our faith. May we daily live by faith on the Son of God. While contemplating his matchless excellencies, may we be changed from glory to glory, and obtain such cheering evidences of a personal interest in his salvation, as will enable us now, and at the hour of death, to say, I know in whom I believe, and am persuaded that he will keep that which I have committed to him unto that day. May this be the happy attainment of all. May the servants of Christ, our pastors, be enriched with this grace, that from personal experience they may be able to recommend the all-glorious Saviour to their flocks. May our friends and relations be blessed with the hope of glory. May all the world see the salvation of God. And now, O Lord, pardon all our sins, and grant us thy grace. All we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—DANIEL IV.

ALMIGHTY God, we approach the footstool of thy throne with the deepest reverence; for thou art the Creator, the Preserver, and the Governor of all things. Thou knowest the proud afar off, but hast respect unto the lowly. O teach us to know ourselves, and the du-

ties which become us as dependent and responsible creatures. In all thy dealings with us, may we delight to trace the operation of thy providence, and may we never presume to question thy wisdom, or thy goodness. May we shrink with horror from the thought of contemning the warnings of the Most High, and of lifting ourselves up against the Lord of heaven. When thou triest us in the furnace of tribulation, may we come forth purified and refined, so that our light affliction, which is but for a moment, may work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. O God of mercy, if we yield to the corrupt propensities of our nature, and rebel against thy law, may our imaginations be speedily cast down, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God; and may every thought be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. For this purpose, we earnestly pray that we may be enabled to examine ourselves with scrupulous candor, and to see the plague of our own hearts. Give us deep contrition, and sincere repentance, together with a growing love to thee, and firm confidence in the sufficiency of the atonement and intercession of thy holy Son. Being thoroughly cleansed in the laver of regeneration, and strengthened with might from above, may we lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. And now, O Holy Father, before we go forth to our several occupations, we humbly implore thee to bless us as a family, and as individuals. May we all be knit together in the bands of mutual affection. May the heads of this house, feeling their great responsibility, endeavor, both by precept and example, to promote the growth of godliness in the hearts of those whom thy providence has committed to their charge. May the children be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, walking in that good way from which they may not depart when they are old. May they learn obedience to their parents and superiors; and under wise and pious instructors, may they diligently improve their time and their talents. May the servants be honest and faithful, that they may adorn the doctrine of God and our Saviour in all things. Seeing thee who art invisible, may we this day undertake nothing on which we should be ashamed to ask thy blessing, and may all the duties in which we are severally to be engaged, be discharged under the solemn conviction that thou, God, seest us, and that we must answer to thee for all that we do or say. These our humble supplications, O our God, we present to thee in the name, and trusting in the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and our Advocate and Intercessor. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS XII.

OUR Father which art in heaven, before we retire to repose for the night, we kneel to thee for thy blessing. We gratefully acknowledge the providential care by which thou hast preserved us

amidst all the dangers, seen or unseen, to which we have been exposed since last we presented ourselves before thee as a family. We know that we are not worthy to receive the least of all thy mercies, and therefore, in imploring thy grace, we can plead only the merits of thy beloved Son, the Mediator of the new covenant, who in his infinite love, has undertaken to be our Advocate and Intercessor. May we be his disciples, not in name only, but in deed and in truth, hearing his voice with reverence, and cheerfully conforming to his will as revealed to us in the gospel. Of that gospel may we never be ashamed. As Christ loved us unto death, may we gratefully love him in return. As we are bought with a price, even with his precious blood, may we act as becometh the Lord's freemen, and glorify him in our body and in our spirit. As we hope that he will confess us before thee, his Father, may we never shrink from confessing him before men. O do thou enable us with the heart to believe unto righteousness, and with the mouth to make confession unto salvation, trusting in the declaration of thy servant that, if we confess with the mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in our heart that thou raised him from the dead, we shall be saved. May thy Holy Spirit sanctify our hearts wholly, and strengthen us inwardly, that we may strive with success against our spiritual enemies, resisting even unto blood. When we faint do thou lift up the hands that hang down, and when weary with the struggles of our Christian course, do thou, O Lord, nerve the feeble knees, and make straight paths for our feet. Should it be our lot to suffer oppression, may we consider him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, and who said, Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven. May we this night commune with our hearts upon our beds, and stand in awe that we sin not. May our meditations of thee be sweet, thy comforts refreshing our souls. Prepare us for the duties of the approaching sabbath. May we be in thy Spirit on the Lord's day, and withdrawing our thoughts and affections from the world, and the things of the world, may we fix them on the great Lord of the sabbath, and those things which are above. May we gratefully meditate on that glorious resurrection from the dead, of which the first day of the week is a lasting memorial in the Christian church, and may we, being dead unto sin, be alive unto righteousness, and unto thee. May the close of every succeeding week find us further and further advanced towards the happy termination of our Christian race, until each of us shall be enabled to adopt the words of thy servant, and say, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at the great day. Heavenly Father, hear us, and acknowledge us as thy children, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only hope of glory. Amen.

Forty-Sixth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS CXX. CXXI. CXXII.

ALMIGHTY God, in Christ our reconciled Father, we, thine unworthy creatures, would approach thee, on this the morning of thine own holy day, with humility as sinners, but with confidence as believers in Jesus. We would come before thee in the spirit of adoption, crying, Abba, Father. See, O God, our shield, look on the face of thine Anointed, and for his sake do thou accept our petitions, and vouchsafe unto us an answer in peace. We thank thee for all the temporal favors wherewith thou hast blessed us. More especially would we acknowledge thy mercy, O thou Shepherd of Israel, in that thou hast watched over and preserved us in safety during the silence, darkness, and helplessness of the night which is gone, and hast once more brought us together as a family, in peace and comfort, to join in prayer around the domestic altar. On this thy day, O Lord, may we be in the Spirit, and may we be enabled to worship thee in spirit and in truth. We confess that we are sinners before thee exceedingly; we have no merit of our own to present unto thee; and by nature we have neither the will to love, nor the power to serve thee. But with thee all things are possible. God be merciful to us, sinners. We would lift up our eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our help; our help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Enable us to keep thy sabbath. May we regard it as the holy of the Lord, and honorable. Enable us to reverence thy sanctuary. May we consider a day in thy courts to be better than a thousand; and may we be glad when it is said unto us, Let us go into the house of the Lord. May all thy ministering servants this day experience the special presence and assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that they may be duly qualified rightly to divide the word of truth. More particularly would we pray for him who stately ministers unto us in holy things. May he come to us this day in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ, and may we wait on his ministrations in an humble, teachable, prayerful, faithful spirit. Enable us, whether as masters, or parents, or children, or servants, to spend this day together in the public and private exercises of thy worship. May we find it to be a time of refreshing from thy presence, a foretaste of the happiness of heaven. We pray for our relatives, and for all who are dear to our hearts. May they be reconciled unto thee by the death of thy Son, and therefore, with us, be adopted into thy family, and have a right to all the privileges of thy children, both in time and throughout eternity. If we have enemies, do thou forgive them; may we be enabled to forgive them also; and may they and we be at length united in the unity of the Spirit, and in the bond of peace, having one Lord, one

faith, one baptism. We beseech thee in behalf of our heathen brethren. O have respect unto the covenant, because the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. Bless the means which are used, in dependance on thy grace, for advancing the honor of thy name, and extending the limits of thy kingdom. May thine ancient people of Israel be brought to regard thee, not merely as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; and thus may all thy people be saved, and may the whole earth be filled with thy glory. We commit ourselves to thee. Be with us during this day, and at all times, to protect us by thy providence, to guard us in the hour of temptation, to comfort, enlighten, and sanctify us by thy Spirit. And throughout eternity, O God, be thou our all-satisfying portion. Hear our prayers, and forgive our sins, and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS CXXIII. CXXIV. CXXV.

UNTO thee we lift up our eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. Whom have we in heaven but thee? and there is none upon the earth that we ought to desire besides thee. We thank thee for that holy rest which it has this day been our privilege to enjoy. We bless thee that, as a family and as individuals, we have been preserved from outward evil; that we have been permitted and commanded to turn away from the things that are seen and temporal, and to direct our believing regards to those things which are unseen and eternal. We gratefully acknowledge thy mercy in having called us this day into thy sacred courts, that we might worship thee according to thine own appointment. O Lord, grant an answer in peace to the prayers which we then presented at thy mercy-seat; and may the word which was preached unto us profit our souls, having been mixed with faith in us who heard it. But, alas, O Lord, we would confess that we have violated the sanctity of thy sabbath in thought, if not in word or deed. Pardon, we implore thee, the sins of our holy things. Grant us the spirit of true repentance. O send forth thy light and thy truth; let them lead us, let them guide us. And if any good impression has been made upon our hearts, or if any good resolution has been formed by us in thy strength, may it be confirmed and rendered permanent, and may its fruit be unto holiness. Grant that the hallowed effect of our sabbath exercises, in public or in private, may be manifested in all we think, and say, and do, throughout the week on which we have entered, so that the world may take knowledge of us that we are advancing in our Christian course. We pray thee to bless thy church throughout the world. May her ministers be disinterested, devoted, and zealous in the cause of our salvation. May her members be more consistent in their profession and in their practice, and more

united to one another, growing up into him in all things, who is the Head, even Christ. May the glad tidings of salvation be proclaimed throughout every land. May sabbath privileges and gospel ordinances be observed and appreciated more and more in our own country. May the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing on his wings, so that, both among ourselves and in the dark and distant lands of heathenism, the wilderness and the solitary place may be made glad, and the desert may rejoice and blossom as the rose. We beseech thee to bless us as a family.* May we, and all who are dear to our hearts, whether present or absent, be more and more closely united together on earth by the bonds of holy Christian love; and when all our sabbaths here below are ended, may we meet to part no more, and enjoy that eternal and unbroken rest which remaineth for thy people in heaven. Watch over us, we implore thee, throughout this night. Grant us that sleep which thou givest unto thy beloved. May thy arm of mercy and of might protect us from all temporal and spiritual evil. If thou art pleased to spare us till the light of morning, may we feel that we are still with thee; and in thy strength, and under thy blessing, may we go forth to the discharge of our week-day duties, not slothful in business, yet fervent in spirit, thus serving thee the Lord. Hear these, O God, our evening supplications, and when thou hearest, forgive, and accept of us, and bless us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—DANIEL V.

ALMIGHTY God! it is good for us at all times to wait upon thee, to show forth thy praise, and to declare thy loving-kindness. Thou art a great God, and a great King, above all gods; and we are thy feeble and dependent creatures. We rejoice, however, to know that, in the plenitude of thy bliss, and the sufficiency of thy nature, thou art not unmindful of the wants and the weaknesses of those beings whom thou hast made; for we, the children of men, have been the objects of a salvation into which even the angels desire to look. We had destroyed ourselves, but in thee was our help found. Thou wast pleased to send thy Son from heaven, that whosoever believeth in him may not perish, but have everlasting life. And we pray, O Lord, that the great end for which Christ came may be fully answered in us. May we all believe on him to the saving of our souls. May we have that faith which purifieth the heart, and worketh by love, which is without partiality, and without hypocrisy, full of mercy, and of good fruits. May we be enabled to walk worthy of the high and holy vocation wherewith thou hast called us, and to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, by a life and conversation becoming the gospel. We pray for all whom we ought to remember before thee. Give repentance and resignation to the sick, help and deliverance to the persecuted and the needy, support and comfort to

the aged and the dying. Speak peace to those who are troubled in mind. Give them a true knowledge of thee, and of their duty, and deliver them from all groundless fears and causeless scruples. Bless our friends, reward our benefactors, forgive our enemies, and grant, we beseech thee, that the time may soon come when, by the universal diffusion and influence of the gospel of peace, all discord and dissension shall cease, when men shall walk together as brethren, and celebrate, by lives of unity and forbearance, the praises of thee, who art a God forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. We thank thee for all that goodness and mercy which thou art continually making to pass before us. We beseech thee to continue to us the many blessings which we already enjoy, and to turn away from us the many evils which our negligence and provocation may deserve. As thou art adding to our days, and multiplying upon us thy mercies, be pleased to grant us increase of grace and perseverance in holiness, that, as we are drawing nearer to our end, we may be growing more meet for the inheritance of thy heavenly kingdom. And unto thee, who alone art able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the throne of thy glory, with exceeding joy, we would ascribe dominion and praise, through Jesus Christ.

MONDAY EVENING.—HEBREWS XIII.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast set thy glory above the heavens, we thy feeble and dependent creatures bow before thee. We know that we cannot be profitable to our Maker, and that our goodness can never extend itself unto thee, the Lord. But thou, in great kindness, hast invited us to approach thee with the voice of supplication and thanksgiving. Moved by our necessities, and encouraged by thy mercy, we seek, this evening, to shelter ourselves under the shadow of thy wings. Thou art rich in mercy to all who call upon thee in sincerity and truth, and savest such as are of a contrite heart. Day by day we have reason to magnify and bless thy worthy name. Thy mercies are new to us every morning, they are repeated to us every evening; great is thy faithfulness. We cannot praise thee according to the riches of thy grace; and thy favors towards us have risen up into a sum of blessing which we are unable to compute. Imprint, we beseech thee, and preserve upon our minds, a deep and lasting sense of thy mercies, that so we may yield ourselves up to thy service, and walk before thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. Kindle the flame of thy love within us. Break every tie which may detain us from thee, our chief good, and melt our whole souls into a compliance with thy will. Give us such views of thy kindness and love to us, as may lead us more and more to honor and to obey thee. Instruct us in the knowledge of our duty to thee, our God, to our neighbor, and to our own souls. Preserve us from the temptations of the world, and from the deceitfulness of

our own hearts. Excite in us a constant watchfulness against sin, and an eager desire after holiness. Help each of us to reform whatever may be amiss in our temper, or in our conduct, and what we know not, do thou teach us. Guide us, by thy good Spirit, in the way of faith and holiness, and give us grace to order our conversation as becometh the gospel. Endue us with that wisdom which cometh from above, which is pure and peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, so that all of us may be inoffensive in our deportment, faithful and diligent in the discharge of our several duties, and adorned with those virtues and graces which thou delightest in. As thou hast given to us thy Son to be both a sacrifice for our sins, and an example of godly living, give us grace truly to receive this inestimable benefit, and faithfully to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life. And do thou strengthen and uphold us, that we may not only be kept from falling, but may go on from one degree of grace and of improvement to another, till at length we come to be presented faultless, before the throne of thy glory, with exceeding joy. Extend thy mercy to all mankind, and be pleased to bring them to the knowledge and obedience of thy will. Look with compassion upon all who are in affliction. Give them patience and comfort under it, and in thy good time a joyful deliverance. We bless thee for thy patience towards us, notwithstanding our many provocations. Accept of our united expressions of gratitude for this day holding our souls in life, and turning away from us the many evils to which we are liable. Into thy hands we commend our spirits during the silent watches of the night. Lighten our darkness, that we may not sleep the sleep of death. Refresh our bodies with quiet rest, and our souls with the consolations of thy Spirit; and when we awake in the morning, may we still find ourselves with thee. And now, Almighty God, who art always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and who givest us more than we deserve or ask, deal not with us according to our imperfect supplications; but pardon our offences, pity our infirmities, consider our necessities, and pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, through Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY MORNING.—DANIEL VI.

ALMIGHTY God, who formest the light and createst the darkness, the day is thine, and the night also is thine. All thy works praise thee, and thy saints do magnify thy name. We desire this morning to join our voices unto theirs in ascribing unto thee all glory and honor, and in acknowledging that we are thy dependent creatures. By thee we were made, and by thee we have been preserved. It is owing entirely to thy goodness and mercy that we have been furnished with the comforts and advantages of this life, and with the hopes and expectations of a better through Jesus Christ. Everything we enjoy, and everything to which we can aspire, flows to us from

thine unmerited bounty. Accept, we beseech thee, of our unfeigned thanks for all the benefits which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us, and pardon our great unworthiness of what thou hast done for us. Impress us with a deep sense of thy love to us, and lead us more and more to honor and to obey thee. Making it our daily care to do the things which thou hast commanded, may we preserve a settled peace of conscience, a sure trust in thy providence, and a joyful hope of everlasting life. With this hope may we purify ourselves, even as thou art pure. May we put away from us all envy, and malice, and evil-speaking, with every dishonest view and every wicked intention, and be careful to cultivate the virtues and graces which thou hast enjoined. May we see and feel the reasonableness and propriety of the commandment to be holy, even as thou who hast called us art holy. May we consider the exceeding riches of that grace which thou hast promised to all who ask it in sincerity and truth. May we remember that, although in ourselves we are weak, yet that in thee, the Lord, there is both righteousness and strength. May we, therefore, take to ourselves the whole armor of God, fight the good fight of faith, and study to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of thy might. May thy word be our rule, thy Spirit our guide and helper, thy goodness our pattern and example, thy promises our encouragement, and thy joys our everlasting recompense and reward. And do thou, O God of peace, who broughtest again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the flock, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, working in us that which is well-pleasing in thy sight. The blessings which we seek for ourselves, we would also supplicate for others. Turn the wicked and the careless from the evil and security of their ways, that they may live and not die. Make them to see and feel that the wages of sin is death, and stir them up to seek the gift of eternal life which is through Jesus Christ. May the sick, and the sorrowful, and the dying, find thee to be their stay and trust. Make us all more sensible of the frailty of our nature and the precariousness of our condition, and enable us more fully to fix and stay ourselves on thee and on thy laws. Accept of our united expressions of gratitude for thy good providence over us during the past night, and for everything comfortable in our present condition. As thou hast been pleased to bring us to the light of another day, let it prove to us a day of grace and favor. Keep us continually in thy fear and service, and preserve us to thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—JAMES I.

ALMIGHTY God, who art the hope and confidence of all ends of the earth, we desire this evening to approach thee with the voice of supplication and thanksgiving. We bless and magnify thy worthy

name for all that goodness and mercy which thou hast been making to pass before us ever since we had a being. We thank thee for the rank which thou hast assigned to us among thine intelligent creatures. We thank thee that thou hast endowed us with the powers of reason and understanding, and hast made us capable of knowing, of loving, and of serving thee, who art the source of all happiness, and the centre of all perfection. We lament that even our best services should be inferior to thy purity and excellence; and still more deeply do we lament that, instead of serving thee with a perfect heart and a willing mind, we should so often have wandered from that path of peace and of duty which thou hast prescribed unto us. We have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are not worthy to be called thy children. We rejoice, however, that there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption that thou mayest be sought after. This is thy name and thy memorial unto all generations, the Lord merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and slow to wrath, keeping covenant and mercy with them that love thee. We rejoice in the gracious assurance that thou wast in Christ reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. In his name, and for his sake, we implore from thee the pardon of our past offences, and grace to help us in our future life. Teach us carefully to redeem the time which we have lost, and diligently to improve those means of grace with which thou art still pleased to favor us. As pilgrims and strangers, may we pass the time of our sojourning here in fear, looking for a house eternal in the heavens. While we are in the world, may we keep ourselves from the evil which is in the world, and study to perfect holiness in thy fear. May we remember that this life is the preparation for immortality, the time which thou hast appointed for working out our salvation; and that, if we here neglect to exercise that faith, and to follow after that holiness which thou requirest, we cannot hereafter obtain that happiness which thou hast promised, for there is no work, nor device, nor wisdom, nor knowledge, in the grave, whither we are hastening. To-day, therefore, while it is yet called to-day, may we hearken to thy voice, as the night cometh wherein no man can work. May we give all diligence to make our calling and election sure. May we seek thee the Lord while thou art to be found; may we call upon thee while thou art near, before our feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and the things which belong to our eternal peace be forever hid from our eyes. We pray not for ourselves only, but beseech thee to be merciful to all men, and to give them grace truly to repent of their sins, that they may receive forgiveness and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Bountifully reward all from whom we have received any good, and graciously forgive those who have done or wished us any harm. We pray for those who are related to us by the ties of friendship and of blood. Give them the fear of thy name and a sense of thy mercy. Keep them contented with their condition, and steadfast in their obedience. Hear their prayers for us, and our prayers for them; and grant that, although here we may be separated by distance, and must at last be separated by death, we may meet in thy

heavenly kingdom to celebrate the praises of thee, who hast been known as a refuge throughout all generations. We thank thee for thy providential goodness towards us through the past day, and for everything comfortable in our present condition. Defend us through the darkness of the night and the unconsciousness of sleep. Keep thy fatherly hand ever about us; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with us; and do thou so guide and govern us in the knowledge and obedience of thy will, that finally we may attain to the inheritance of thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—DANIEL VII.

OUR Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is done in heaven. We rejoice to know that thou reignest, and that the great Messiah reigns, that the government of the world and of the church is upon his shoulder, and that he must reign until he hath made all his enemies his footstool. We are naturally thine enemies, O God, and his; our hearts are rebellious, our wills are perverse, there is none of us that doeth good. We deserve to be dealt with as thine enemies, to be denounced and punished for our rebellion; thou wouldst be just in judging, clear in condemning us. But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared; judgment is thy strange work, thou delightest in mercy. We bless thee for Jesus, our Peacemaker, and for the assurance of thy love through him. O Lord, we will praise thee; though thou wast angry with us, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest us. May we enjoy more and more largely the peace of believing. May we know our election of God. May we have the inward witness testifying our adoption. Say unto our souls, I am your salvation. And, Lord, we would desire to have the spirit as well as the privileges of thy children. We would seek to be made dutiful, submissive, humble, anxious to know, and willing to do all that thou requirest of us. There is much rebelliousness still lurking in our souls, much pride, self-will, self-seeking, self-glorying. O for deliverance from these accursed things; O to be thoroughly subdued by thy grace; to have our every thought brought into captivity. Draw us, Lord, and we will run after thee. Turn us, O Lord, and we shall be turned; for thou art the Lord our God. And do thou multiply, we beseech thee, more and more, every day the number of the faithful. We hail the blessed prospects thou hast opened up in the sure word of prophecy for the world in which we live, covered as it now is with darkness, and groaning beneath the bondage of corruption. Hasten thou their fulfilment, condescend to own and prosper every scriptural means employed with a view to this high end; let Jew and Gentile be made one in Christ; let antichrist be overthrown, and may every plant be rooted up which our heavenly Father hath not planted.

Be favorable to our land; return and visit us, as in days of old; revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. Accept our morning tribute of praise for all thy bountiful kindness. To thy care we would commend ourselves; during this day preserve us from evil, preserve us, especially, from sin. Help us to realize thy presence continually, to maintain the remembrance of thee in our minds, to walk before thee in the land of the living. And do thou so replenish our souls with a sense of thy love to us in Christ Jesus, that we shall be raised above the influence of every meaner affection, and shall be constrained to run in the way of thy commandments, rejoicing in thy name all the day. Lead us in thy way, and teach us, for thou art the God of our salvation, on whom we desire continually to wait. We ask all for Jesus' sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—DANIEL VIII

O GOD, do thou deliver us from self-deceit and hypocrisy, from every secret sin. May we be sincere and upright before thee; may we be pure in heart within. Thou knowest how prone we are to flatter ourselves in our own eyes; to be satisfied with a name to live; to say, Peace, when there is no peace. And we confess, most gracious God, that we have been chargeable with much insincerity, and manifold inconsistencies, both in our conduct towards thee, and towards our fellow-men. We have said that we have faith, yet our faith has not wrought by love, nor has it purified our hearts, nor has it enabled us to overcome the world. It has been at the best feeble and fluctuating, and often, alas! has given place to the evil heart of unbelief, leading us to depart from thee, the living God. Yet, Lord, we would believe, we would desire above all things, to have the precious faith of thine elect, that faith which unites the soul to Christ, and which by uniting, assimilates, conforms it to his image. Do thou by thy Holy Spirit increase our faith. May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, and be formed in us the hope of glory. May the same mind be in us that was also in Christ Jesus, who though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we, through his poverty, might become rich; who came, not to be ministered unto, but to minister; who pleased not himself. Like him, may we be humble, condescending, forgiving, enduring, loving one another out of a pure heart, fervently; yea, walking in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor. May we be living epistles of Christ, seen and read of all. Be pleased, gracious Father, to forgive wherein this day we have sinned against thee, in the intercourse with each other, or with the world. Alas! the sins even of a day are too many for us to bear; wert thou to mark iniquity, we could not stand. But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. We

would have recourse, anew, to the blood of Jesus, which cleanseth from all sin. May we be washed, and justified, and sanctified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. To thy fatherly protection we commit ourselves during the ensuing night, giving thee thanks for the mercies which this day thou hast bestowed upon us, and trusting in the continuance of thy favor. May the eternal God be our refuge, and underneath us the everlasting arms. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JAMES II.

EVERLASTING and omniscient God, unto thee would we lift up our souls, and in his name, with whom thou art ever well-pleased, we would supplicate thy favor. Solemnize our minds by the recollection that thou, who knowest the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that shall be, art also the searcher of all hearts, the ever-present witness, the infallible judge. Thou art greater than our hearts, and thou knowest all things. And thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel, so holy that thou canst not look upon sin, so holy that no sinner can stand in thy presence. Our God is a consuming fire. Yet to whom can we flee for succor, under the consciousness of guilt, or the dread of vengeance, but only to thee, O God? Blessed be thy name, that we are permitted to address thee as our God, our God in covenant, our God in Christ, who art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses, who art as gracious to forgive as thou art holy to hate and just to punish, who art just even in justifying the ungodly who believe in Jesus, at once the sinner's friend and sin's eternal foe. And we rejoice to believe, that thine is an omniscient mercy; that though the number of our sins be incalculable, save only by thyself, thou art willing, for Christ's sake, abundantly to pardon them all; that in him we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of thy grace, wherein thou hast abounded towards us in all wisdom and prudence. O do thou grant us the blessed consciousness that this redemption is ours, that Christ himself is ours, and we are his. Increase our faith in the Lord Jesus; increase it in its simplicity, in its vitality, in its comforting and quickening energy. May we know whom we have believed; may we count all but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, whom having not seen, may we love, and believing in him may we rejoice, even with a joy unspeakable, and full of glory. And do thou impart to us, in larger and yet larger measure, the influence of thy free Spirit to renew and sanctify us. Cleanse the sanctuary of our hearts, dethrone every idol, take full possession for thyself; may the Lord alone be exalted. Thou knowest our individual necessities, be pleased to supply them; may each of us receive grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ, and may

that grace be sufficient for us. Dwell in this family, and as thou hast been our fathers' God, the God of Bethel, do thou vouchsafe to us also thy choicest blessing. As for us, and our house, we will serve the Lord. May each of us be a living member of thine own holy and happy family: let none of us be wanting in that day when thou makest up thy jewels. Be gracious to our friends, forgive our enemies, reward our benefactors; be the husband of the widow, the father of the fatherless, the helper of those who have no help in man. Prosper thine own cause, gather in thine elect, and hasten thy kingdom. Let thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the King reign and prosper; and from the uttermost corners of the earth may there be heard songs, even glory to the righteous One. We implore thy protection and guidance during this day. May the Lord preserve us from all evil, may the Lord preserve our souls. Henceforth, in going out and in, do thou keep us forever. And all we now ask is for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—JAMES III.

O GOD, our heavenly Father, do thou inspire us with the grace of true humility, especially when, as now, we present ourselves before thy holy Majesty, and take thy name into our mouths. Give us to feel, as did thy servant of old, when, beholding the vision of thy glory, he exclaimed, Woe is me, for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Behold, we are vile, and what shall we answer thee? We have destroyed ourselves, O God, but in thee is our help. And there is hope in Israel concerning this thing, for there is a fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness. Though the tongue can no man tame, yet thou canst, and thou hast often done it, and thou hast promised to do it again; with thee is the residue of the Spirit; from thee cometh down the wisdom that is pure, peaceable, and gentle, and it hath pleased thee, the Father, that in Christ Jesus, thy dear Son, all fulness of grace and blessing should dwell. O then, do thou grant us a living faith in Jesus, and a vital union to him, that so our guilt and pollution may be cleansed at once, that being joined to the Lord, we may be of one spirit with him, that Christ may be formed in us the hope of glory, and that, animated by a continual and constraining sense of his love, we may grow in conformity to his example, who did no sin, and in whose mouth no guile was found, who was meek and lowly in heart, on whose tongue was the law of kindness and love. Forgive, we beseech thee, wherein this day, we have offended, or come short. Alas! wert thou to enter into judgment with us, even for the sins of a day, we could not stand, nor answer thee for one of a thousand; even the thought of foolishness is sin before thee. But how precious the assurance, that the blood of Christ thy Son clean-

seth from all sin, and that if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. May every day's experience serve to shut us up more entirely to the faith of this blessed truth, that so the love of Christ filling our hearts, our mouths may be eloquent with his praise, and our lives devoted to his service. Be the God of this family; may each member of our household belong to the household of faith; may each heart be a temple for thee to dwell in. And may those of our dear friends, who are absent from us, be fellow-partakers with us of thy grace. Bless all thy chosen people everywhere; feed, and lead, and lift up. Heal their divisions, bring to a perpetual end their envyings one of another, and let the blessed period soon arrive, when the shepherds shall see eye to eye, and when all that now distracts and weakens thy holy church universal shall be buried and forgotten in the love of one another. Bless our own land, and our own church, and this portion of thy vineyard in which thou hast cast our lot. May thy work flourish among us; may it revive and prosper, as in the days of old. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, and make thy countenance to shine, and so we shall be safe. To thy care and keeping we commend ourselves during the ensuing night, giving thee thanks also for the mercies of the day which is now drawing to a close. We will lay ourselves down in peace, and take quiet rest, because thou, Lord our Father who art in heaven, makest us to dwell in safety. Hear our supplications, forgive, answer, and accept of us, for Jesus our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—DANIEL IX.

THOU, O Lord, art our God, and we will praise thee. Thou wast our fathers' God, and we will exalt thee. But above all, thou art the God and the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and anew would we thank thee for thine unspeakable gift. We adore thee that thou hast laid our help upon One mighty and able to save. Glory be to the Father, who when there was no eye to pity, and no arm to work deliverance, was pleased, in the fulness of his compassion, to provide the Lamb without blemish and without spot, for a burnt-offering! Glory be to the Son, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, and despised the shame! Glory be to the Holy Ghost, the Comforter and the Sanctifier of the church, who applieth to the souls of thy people the blessings of the Saviour's purchase! O forbid that any of us, like the unbelieving Jews of old, should do despite to redeeming love. May we be washed, justified, and sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. O give us thy good Spirit, to teach us what thou wouldest have us to do, to make us what thou wouldest have us to be, to lead us into all the truth, to adorn us with all the graces of the Christian life, to crown our faith with the peaceable and the enduring fruits

of righteousness. By nature we are dead in trespasses, may thy Spirit revive and quicken us. By nature we are far from thee; may thy Spirit bring us near, and make us one by faith with thy dear Son. By nature we are averse to thy holy law; may thy Spirit slay this enmity; enlarging and purifying our hearts, may he lead us to run with delight in the path of all thy commandments. And may thy Spirit seal us unto the day of complete and everlasting redemption, enabling us to persevere in well-doing to the end, preserving us faithful unto death. We bless thee that by the recorded example of thy people, as well as by the precepts and the promises of thy word, thou hast invited and encouraged us to pray for others as well as for ourselves. We rejoice to think that in our Father's house there is bread enough, and to spare. Giving does not impoverish thee, withholding does not enrich thee. Be pleased then to listen to our prayers in behalf of the church of Christ, the church universal on earth; our hearts' desire is that thou wouldst heal her divisions, that thou wouldst remove her corruptions, and that thou wouldst extend her boundaries. Build up the waste places of Zion, satisfy her poor with bread, clothe her priests with salvation, cause her saints to shout for joy. Revive thy work in the midst of our own country, of our own neighborhood, of our own family. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. We bless thee for the comfort of the past night, and for the circumstances of tranquillity and comfort in which thou hast permitted us to assemble together around thine altar. Be with us, and with all who are near and dear to us, throughout this day. And whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to thy glory, may we do all in the name of Jesus, may we do all in dependence upon thy blessing, may we do all as with a view to the account which we must give in at the judgment-seat. Hear these our prayers. We present them in the name of him whom thou lovest and hearest always. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—JAMES IV.

THOU, O Lord, art great, and greatly to be praised; thou art holy, and therefore to be had in profoundest reverence; thou art good to all, and supremely to be adored, both on earth below and in heaven above. Bless the Lord, ye his angels that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless the Lord, all ye hosts, ye ministers of his that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O our souls. Towards us how manifold and how wonderful have been the expressions of thy favor! Thou madest us at first, not we ourselves; and we gratefully acknowledge that it is only because thou hast never left nor forsaken us that we have been so long preserved in the land of the living, and the place of hope. Graciously hast thou dealt with us in every stage of our existence. Liberally

hast thou supplied our returning wants. Thou hast guided us through many difficulties, thou hast protected us from many dangers, thou hast disappointed many of our fears, thou hast exceeded many of our hopes, thou hast been a very present help in our times of trouble. Herein especially, and above all, was love, not that we loved thee, but that thou lovedst us, and didst send thy Son into our world to impart unto thy people pardon of sin, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, purity of heart and life, and the hope of glory. It is only in his name that we are emboldened to come into thy presence, and to bow before thy throne. We believe in him, help thou our unbelief; rebuke every suspicion of his faithfulness and supremacy away from us. Give us grace to confide in his love, to lay hold of his righteousness, and to surrender ourselves to his disposal. May he be formed in us our sole hope of glory. May he be made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Thus reconciled to thee through the blood of his cross, may we be enabled to live as becometh the children of thine adoption, hating that which thou hatest, and following after that in which thou takest pleasure. And do thou who hast all hearts in thy hands, and who turnest them as the rivers of water whithersoever thou pleasest, so dispose our hearts, by the grace of thy Spirit, as that sin may become our aversion, and the paths of holiness may be regarded by us as paths of pleasantness and peace. Living in the world, and discharging the duties which we owe to the world, but renouncing its spirit, and keeping aloof from its defilements, may we be enabled to show that our home is on the other side of death, that our treasure is within the veil. O amidst all the trials and turmoils of time, may this glorious hope, the hope of immortality, be as the anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast. May it fortify us against temptation, quicken to the discharge of duty, minister comfort under sorrow, and counteract the fear of death. Be very gracious to all who are connected with us by whatever tie. The Lord bless them, the Lord cause the light of his countenance to shine upon them, and give them peace. Be very favorable to us as a family. May goodness and mercy follow us; may the everlasting arms be ever underneath and around us; and may we at length appear before thee, no wanderer lost, a family in heaven. These our prayers we present in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, thine eternal Son, and our adorable Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—DANIEL X.

WITH profound humility, but at the same time, with holy, reverential, child-like confidence, we desire to lift up our hearts unto thee, O Lord, our Father which art in heaven. Having boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he hath consecrated for us through the veil of his flesh; and

having an High Priest over the house of God, we desire to draw near in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Pour down upon us the Spirit of grace and of supplications. We adore thee for the freedom of access which we have to thy mercy-seat. We adore thee that, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, we are commanded to make known our requests unto thee. We adore thee for the assurance that we have a gracious and all-prevalent Intercessor at thy right hand, one who is able to save to the uttermost all who come to thee through him, seeing that he ever liveth to make intercession in their behalf. We appear before thee in his name, beseeching thee that thou, for his sake, wouldst open up the treasures of thy grace, and impart to each of us the blessings of which thou knowest us to stand in need. We stand, all of us, in need of justifying mercy; we have all of us reason to say, God be merciful to us sinners. Which of thy commandments have we not broken, which of thy precepts have we not despised? But be pleased, for thine own name's sake, to lift upon us the light of thy countenance, and to cause us to experience the blessedness of those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose persons are accepted, whose peace is made. We stand, also, all of us, in need of purifying and strengthening grace; for our hearts are deceitful, our wills are perverse, and in us, that is, in our flesh, there dwelleth no good thing. Therefore it is that we beseech thee to create the clean heart, and to renew the right spirit within us. Take away the hard and stony hearts, and give us hearts of flesh, hearts softened by thy grace, moulded to thy will, devoted to thy service. Enable us to glorify thee on earth; and deliver us from the evil with which the world abounds. Save us from the great adversary of souls, save us from the contagion of ungodly example, save us from the fear of man that bringeth a snare, save us from the deceitfulness of our own corrupt nature. Fit us for whatever thou hast in store for us, and forbid that the summons of death should find any of us unprepared. Draw near to the sick, to sanctify to them their sufferings; draw near to the dying, to make them ready for their great change. Bless the interests of godliness at home and abroad, and enable us to show our love to Christ by our love to his people, and our desire to promote his cause. Holy Father, into thy hands we commend ourselves, and all in whom we are interested. Do to them, and do to us, beyond what we can ask or think; and the praise shall be thine, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—JAMES V.

HEAVENLY Father, adored be thy name, that to the most disobedient of us all the unsearchable riches of Christ are offered without money and without price! O that we may all have grace given to us to close with the merciful proclamation Hearing the joyful

sound, may none of us harden ourselves against it. May we be captivated, may we be overcome by the grace and condescension which appeared in the incarnation, the obedience, the sufferings, and the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. May our eyes be brought to see, our minds to understand, our hearts to adore the wonders of his redeeming love. For this cause we bow our knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant us, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge. May we esteem him to be precious; may we lean upon him as the beloved of our souls; may we rejoice in him as all our salvation and all our desire. We lament that hitherto we have known so little of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. We mourn over the feebleness of our desires, the coldness of our hearts, the deadness of our affections towards him. We have reason to be full of heaviness when we think how sad a requital we have made for his kindness to usward; how little anxiety we have ever manifested, or ever felt, to adorn his gospel, and to do him honor. But O grant that henceforth we may be enabled to live as becometh those whom he came to redeem from iniquity, and to purify to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Calling ourselves by his name, may we seek to walk in his steps; professing to love him, may we manifest our love by keeping his commandments; calling him our Master and our Lord, may we be enabled to render him a willing obedience. We pray that his kingdom may be established within us, that kingdom which consists of righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. We pray that all the kingdoms of this earth may become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. May he take to himself his great power and reign; may he go forth on the morrow in the chariots of the gospel, conquering and to conquer. We bless thee for the weekly return of the Christian sabbath; we hail the near approach of the day of rest. Grant that to many it may be the date of their conversion; that to many it may be a stage on their path of progressive holiness; that to many it may be a foretaste and a pledge of that sinless and endless sabbath which remains for thy people in the sanctuary above. At the close of another week, we bless thee for the many mercies which during the course of it we have enjoyed; and we commend ourselves anew to thee at its close. If spared to see the dawn, O may we be in the Spirit on the Lord's day; may it prove a season of much refreshing to our souls. Our prayers are before thee, be pleased to send us the answer of peace, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Forty-Seventh Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS CXXVI. CXXVII. CXXVIII.

THOU, even thou alone, O Lord, art he that should be feared; and who may stand before thee if once thou be angry? Who would not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy? Thy hand is for good upon all them that seek thee; but thy power and thy wrath are against all them that forsake thee. The Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake, because it hath pleased the Lord to make them his people. The mountains may depart, and the earth be removed, but thy loving-kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of thy peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy upon thee. Do not thine eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show thyself strong in behalf of him whose heart is perfect towards thee. Let us sanctify thee in our hearts, and make thee our fear and our dread, that thou mayest be for a sanctuary to us, to preserve us from the evils and dangers to which we are exposed. Let us not fear men, who can merely kill our body, but afterwards have no more that they can do; but may we fear thee, who, after thou hast killed our body, hast power to cast both soul and body into hell. Let not our heart envy sinners; but let us be in the fear of the Lord all the day long, for surely there shall be an end both of the triumphing of the wicked, and of the sorrows and sufferings of thy people, and the expectation of those who fear thee shall not be cut off. We thank thee, Lord, for our sabbath liberty, and our sabbath opportunities. May we enter into the spirit of this day's service. May we call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, and honorable, and honor thee upon it by not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasure, nor speaking our own words. May we have such a relish for the holy exercises of the sabbath as shall be a satisfactory evidence that we shall spend an eternal sabbath in thy blissful presence. Let those who profane thy sabbaths consider their guilt and folly ere it be too late, lest the time come when they shall intensely desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but shall not be so favored. Go forth this day with the preaching of thy Son's gospel. May it have free course and be glorified. Pour out thy Spirit this day as rain upon the mown grass, and as showers that water the earth. Make the places round about thy hill a blessing. Cause the rain to come down in his season. Let there be showers of blessings. When the poor and the needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, do thou, the Lord, hear, do thou, the God of Israel, not forsake them. Revive thy work in the midst of the years; in the midst of the years make known, in wrath remember

mercy. Prepare us for rendering thee that public homage which is justly due unto thee. And to thy name, in Christ, be glory and praise, now and forever. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS CXXIX. CXXX. CXXXI.

WHO, O Lord, is a God like unto thee, who pardonest the iniquity, and passest by the transgression of the remnant of thy heritage, because thou delightest in mercy? There is forgiveness with thee, because there is a propitiation with thee that thou mayest be feared. If the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thought, and return unto thee in the way thou hast appointed, thou wilt have mercy upon him, thou wilt abundantly pardon his sins. Thou graciously proclaimest, I was, I am he that blotteth out thine iniquity for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. We bless thee that in Christ thou art reconciling a guilty world unto thyself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and that thou hast sent to us, in this distant land of the Gentiles, the word of reconciliation. We adore thee for the gift and sacrifice of him on whom thou hast laid our help. In this was manifested thy love to us, because that thou gavest thine only-begotten Son that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us, and gave his Son to be a propitiation for our sins. We bless thee for the perfection of that sacrifice which he presented to thee when he offered up himself. It was impossible that the blood of bulls and of goats could take away sin. It was necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified by these; but the heavenly things themselves by better sacrifices than these. The legal sacrifices, though in themselves worthless, might, by thine appointment, make a typical atonement; but it was only the sacrifice of Emmanuel that could make a real atonement for sin. It was only by setting forth thy Son, as a propitiation through faith in his blood, that thou couldest be seen to be just, and holy, and true, in justifying the ungodly. We thank thee that through Christ there is preached to us the forgiveness of sins, and that by him all that believe are justified from all things from which they could not be justified by the law of Moses. May we be justified by his blood, and saved from wrath through him. As he has reigned in us unto death, so may grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord. And may his grace, bringing us salvation, teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, and righteously, and godly, in the present world, thereby looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. For all that we ask or hope for is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—DANIEL XI.

O LORD, thou knowest the end from the beginning. Thy counsel shall stand, and thou wilt do all thy pleasure. Thou art of one mind, and who shall turn thee. Thou art not a man that thou shouldst lie, nor the son of man that thou shouldst repent! Hast thou said it, and wilt thou not do it; or hast thou spoken it, and wilt thou not make it good? Thy mighty hand can easily accomplish whatever thy mind and counsel determine before should be done. There is no difficulty or restraint laid upon thee. Who hath resisted thy will? Who would set the briars and the thorns before thee in battle? Wouldest thou not go through them, and burn them up together? Thou, even thou alone, art he that should be feared, and who may stand before thee if once thou be angry? Thou makest the wrath of man to praise thee, and the remainder of his wrath thou dost restrain. What man meaneth for evil, thou often meanest for good, to bring to pass the purposes of thy grace to those who love thee, and are the called according to thy purpose. We bless thee for the special care thou exercisest over thy church. We adore thee for the promises of protection and favor which thou hast afforded her. We thank thee for thy counsel to walk about Zion, and go round about her, to tell the towers thereof, to mark well her bulwarks, to consider her palaces, that we may tell it to the generation following, and may say, This God is our God forever and ever, he will be our guardian unto death. Bless thy church universal. May she lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes. Hasten the latter day glory. Overrule all the events that are taking place for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. May the time soon arrive when voices shall be heard in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our God, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. May we belong to Christ's kingdom. May we be his disciples, not in name, and by profession merely, but in deed and in truth. May he be formed in our hearts the hope of glory. May his love constrain us to live not unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. May we seek his glory above our chief joy. Whether we live, may we live to the Lord; or whether we die, may we die to the Lord, that living or dying we may be his. May we be crucified with Christ, that Christ may live in us, that the life which we live in the flesh may be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us. May we habitually act faith in him, that we may receive supplies of grace and strength out of his fulness. And do thou guide us with thy counsel while we live, and afterwards bring us to glory, for all that we ask is for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—1 PETER I.

WORTHY art thou, O Lord, to receive glory, and honor, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Thou hast made all things for thyself, that they might show forth all thy praise. Thy works praise thee, thy saints bless thee. Thousands of angels minister unto thee, and ten thousand times ten thousand stand before thee. We adore thee for thy kindness to us, the sinful children of men. We thank thee especially for the work of our redemption, by Jesus Christ the Son of thy love. In this chiefly was manifested thy love towards us, that thou gavest thine only-begotten Son, that we might live through him. We bless thee that while he sojourned in this world, thou didst repeatedly testify thy complacency in him as our Mediator, that when he had finished the work which thou gavest him to do, by humbling himself, and becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, thou didst raise him from the dead, and give him glory at thy right hand, that our faith and hope might be in thee; that we might know that thou art fully satisfied with his undertaking, and art ready to justify those who believe in him from all things from which they could not be justified by the law of Moses. May we obtain redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the richness of thy grace. Bless us with a right to an inheritance among them that are sanctified, through faith that is in him; to that inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. And graciously prepare us, by thy dealings and dispensations, for the enjoyment of this pure and blissful inheritance. Sanctify the afflictions wherewith thou seest meet to visit us, that the trial of our faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be held in the fire, may be found unto praise, and honor, and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ. May we reckon the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall then be revealed in us, if we belong to Christ. May we possess the faith, love, and joy of his disciples. May we recognize his glory as the glory of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, and rejoice in him as our beloved, and our friend, and the rock of our salvation. Enable us to realize a growing conformity to thy holy image. Beholding, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, may we be transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Since we call thee Father, that without respect of persons, judgest according to every man's work, may we pass the time of our sojourning here in thy fear, forasmuch as we know that we have not been redeemed with any corruptible things, such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. Now to God, only wise, be glory, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—DANIEL XII.

Most gracious God, we draw near to thee this morning to thank thee for thy goodness to us, and through our great High Priest to present to thee our morning sacrifice. Thou knowest our hearts, thou art acquainted with our state before thee, all things are naked and open to the eye of the God with whom we have to do. Gracious Father, may all of us who now kneel before thee, and all in whom we feel an interest, be thine when thou makest up thy jewels. We put our bodies and souls into thy hand; Lord, fit us for the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, that we may awake to everlasting life. May we walk under the power of the world to come. May we live as it were under the sound of the trump of the archangel. If we are but prepared for enjoying thee, if our robes are made white in the blood of the Lamb, we shall be satisfied. Let the way be thine, for thy way is right, but lead us to the city of habitation. O our God, there was one who wrestled with thee of old, and thou didst hear him, hear us for Jesus' sake. We are poor short-sighted creatures. We cannot know the time which thou hast kept in thine own hand, and we would not seek to know them. Reveal only thy Son in us, and we shall be satisfied. Thy word tells us that the wicked shall do wickedly, and that the wise shall understand. Alas! we have done wickedly, we have not understood, we have not sought after God. But the same word says that now is the accepted time. We would desire to flee from our wickedness, and to turn to thee with full purpose of heart. Our sins, O God, have caused thee to hide thy face from us, but now we come back to thee. May thy Holy Spirit draw each of us, and all our friends, from the path in which destroyers go, and lead us into the way of truth and holiness. May our lot be with Christ. We feel that there can be no blessedness without him, and we know that our souls will be satisfied if they have him as their portion. O gracious God, may we, and all who are dear to us, have our place on the right hand of the throne, when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. Again we bless thee for the mercies of the past night, and of this morning. We would seek to go forth to the duties of the day under the guidance of thy Holy Spirit. And now we commend to thee the work that is thine own. Send forth laborers into thy harvest, thou who art the Lord of the harvest. May many run to and fro, that the knowledge of thee may be increased. May thy way be known upon earth, and by saving health among all the nations. And may a special blessing rest upon the efforts which are made for the diffusion of the truth among thine ancient people; they have forgotten thee, but thou art found of them that seek thee not. O Lord, cause thy face to shine upon them that they may be saved. And now, O God, may thy mercy be upon us, as we hope in thee. This day make thy grace sufficient for us, and perfect thy strength in our weakness. And may he who stands up for the children of thy people be with

us this day to guard us against the assaults of the wicked one. Lord, hear our prayers, and answer us according to our imperfect asking, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—1 PETER II.

O RIGHTEOUS and eternal God, we desire to draw near to thee this evening, and to render unto thee our grateful acknowledgments for thy kindness to us throughout the day. Adored be thy name for the privileges which are promised to thy people, and conferred on them through Jesus Christ. O may we be the temples of the living God, by the Spirit dwelling in us. Our hearts, O Lord, are unfit for the residence of thy Holy Spirit. Impure thoughts, unholy desires, evil tendencies, vain imaginations, have their seat there. Alas! there is no place for the King of glory. Yet, O God, cast us not from thy sight. Visit us with thy salvation. Mould our hearts according to thy will. Come and dwell in us; for until thou comest and preparest for thyself a place, sin will continue to have the dominion over us. O make us kings and priests to thee. As kings, and brethren of him who is the King of Sion, may we have power over our own hearts, and over the evil one and his emissaries, who would seek to lead us captive. As thy priests, O Lord, may we be holy, and by the Spirit's grace may we ever be enabled to present to thee the sacrifices of believing prayer, and praise, and uniform obedience to thy law. Heavenly Father, we pray that we may ever feel the reality of our condition as pilgrims and sojourners upon earth. Our hearts would lead us to seek our rest here, and many things conspire to make us forgetful of the great eternity. Blessed God, we beseech thee to keep us in mind of our immortal destiny; and may all the lessons and warnings of thy providence, as well as the teaching of thy word and Spirit, confirm us in the pursuit of those things which are unseen and eternal. May our conversation on earth always be such as to cause those who are opposed to thee to perceive that the doctrine of Christ is according to godliness. O that each of us could be made instrumental in turning from the path of destruction were it but one soul. The feeblest instruments are powerful in thy might. Lord, let us ever speak and act so as to diffuse the sweet savor of the Redeemer's name wherever we go, and whatever pursuit we engage in. Once more, O God, we beseech thee to give us grace to keep Christ ever before us. We do take him as the only ground of hope toward thee. We do rely upon his perfect righteousness; O lead us to follow his example. Let that mind which was in him be also in us. May he reign over our hearts, may he by his Spirit make us like himself, that in our varied situations we may all adorn his blessed doctrine, and stop the mouth of the enemy and the blasphemer. And now, O God, bless all who are dear to us, and remember them with the love thou bearest to thine

own. Bless all who have ever sought an interest in our prayers, and visit them in mercy. Send the knowledge of the glorious gospel to them that are afar off. And may all who already know the joyful sound, walk in the light of thy countenance. Keep us, O God of Israel, this night; may we be refreshed by sleep, and fitted for the labors of another day, if it is thy will to spare us. Thou keepest Israel. Keep us, O Lord, and O forgive all our trespasses; wash us in the blood of Jesus, and sanctify us wholly to do thy will; that whether we sleep or wake, we may live with Christ. And to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we would ascribe everlasting praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—HOSEA V. VI.

O THOU righteous and sovereign God, we would draw near to thee this morning in deepest self-abasement, confessing our sins, and imploring thy pardoning mercy. Thou hast favored us with privileges, and we have misimproved them; thou hast placed us among our fellow-creatures as thy witnesses, and we have been witnesses for sin; thou hast arranged all thy providential dispensations for our good, and we have abused and trampled upon thy mercies. Behold, we are vile, and what shall we answer thee! O Lord, we would desire to return unto thee. We have found no enjoyment in the paths of sin. Our own consciences testify, what thy word also testifies, that the wages of sin is death. We have sought happiness apart from thee, but we have not found it; and now would we seek to be brought back to thee the Fountain of all enjoyment. Blessed be thy name for revealing to us the way in which lost creatures like us may return to God. Thanks be to our heavenly Father for Jesus Christ, his unspeakable gift. O Lord, we bless thee that thou hast been pleased to set him forth as the propitiation for sin, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish. We feel that without him we must perish; but we rejoice to know that through him, and in him, there is life eternal, even for such as we are. Gracious God, we have tried in vain to be saved without him. We would not conceal it from thee, O thou that searchest the heart, that we have endeavored to heal the wounds of our consciences by many false remedies. We have said, Peace, peace, when there was no peace. But now, O God, we would take him as our peace with whom thou art pleased. What pleases thee, we feel should satisfy us. With his righteousness thou art pleased, and in the merit of that righteousness we would place our confidence. Jesus delivereth his people from the wrath to come; we pray that we may be delivered from wrath through him. O cast us not from thy sight, because of our past sinfulness, and ingratitude, and unprofitableness, as thy professing people. Lord, we desire to be thine; save thou us. Draw us to thyself by thy Holy Spirit. May he lead us to return to thee. So wayward and blinded are our hearts, that we would never choose

thee as our portion. May the Spirit lead us to make the choice. O give us to experience some of the privileges and enjoyments of those who have truly turned to thee. The choicest gifts, O Lord, we dare scarcely implore, but there is all fulness treasured up in Christ; give us what thou knowest to be most needful. Open our hearts to desire more, and to contain more, and then, O God of grace, fill us abundantly with the goodness of thy house. We have been too long satisfied with earthly good, but now we would seek to taste of the blessedness with which thou refreshest the souls of thy chosen people. Heavenly Father, thou hast been pleased to protect us during the night, and to bring us to the light of another day. Accept, for Christ's sake, of our thanksgiving for thy goodness, and be near to us this day to guide us, and to guard us from all evil. O Lord, may we be preserved this day from doing anything that would dishonor our Christian profession; may we be strengthened for doing what will glorify it. May our footsteps be kept in the way of thy commandments; and in the midst of our worldly duties may we remember that there is a life beyond the present, and that we are here but for a very short time, that we may prepare for the endless eternity. Lord, prepare us thyself for all the duties of time, and for the great realities that lie before us. Into thy hands we put ourselves, O Jehovah, God of truth. May thy rod and thy staff support us during our pilgrimage on earth, and at last may we be advanced to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Hear our prayer, O God; and accept of us, and of our morning sacrifice, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—1 PETER III.

O THOU high and holy One who inhabitest eternity, we would now, before retiring to rest this night, approach the footstool of thy throne of grace, in the all-prevailing name of our great High Priest, who hath gone into the heavens, and is at thy right hand. We would be deeply humbled before thee when we think of our own vileness and unworthiness. O Lord, we have been more attentive to the interests of the perishable body than to the concern of our immortal souls; more disposed to be anxious about what we should eat, and what we should drink, than to seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Lord, pity us and pardon us for Christ's sake. O God of all grace, make us all monuments of thy grace and mercy in Christ Jesus. We would all seek to take shelter from the wrath to come in the ark of Christ's righteousness. His we desire to be. Among his saved people let our names be written. In our hearts may his Spirit dwell; and while the outgoings of the morning and of the evening rejoice over us in providence, our prayer is, that every morning and every evening may find us drawn more and more closely to him who is our Lord, our life, our all. O gracious

God, fit us by thy Spirit for the discharge of all the duties which are incumbent upon us. May we discharge them as thy people, with a single eye to thy glory. We bless thee for pointing out to us so clearly the path of duty. We would esteem it a high privilege that we know what duty is, upon thine own authority. Our shortcomings have been fearful, they have been aggravated, they might have justly provoked thee to visit us with thy judgments. But, O Lord, thou delightest in mercy, and in this is our hope. Help us, good Lord, to fulfil all the duties of this life, so as to adorn our Christian profession. We would seek to find pleasure in duty. We would esteem it an honor to live as thine, and to live for thee in the world. Lord, make this not a passing thought, but a firm purpose of our hearts. O give us grace to set Christ ever before us. We desire to take him as our only Saviour, and to follow him as our great example! But what are we, O God, that we should presume to present these petitions at thy footstool! Thy holy law shuts us up under wrath. We are as prisoners, for whom is reserved unending punishment. Adored be thy grace, that we are prisoners of hope. Our trust is in him who died, and who rose again, and who is at thy right hand. We bring our prayers with confidence to thee, because we have in him an all-prevailing advocate. O blessed Jesus, grant unto us that repentance and remission of sin which thou art enabled to bestow. O divine Spirit, take up thy residence in our hearts, and make us in all things what thou wouldst have us to be. Cleanse us from all our sins. Give us fortitude to withstand the attacks of the wicked one. Impart to us a mind conformed to the mind of Christ. Before we leave thy footstool, O thou great parent of the universe, we would beseech thee to send the knowledge of thy truth to those who are in heathen darkness, and to open up a way for its more full diffusion among thine ancient people. The whole earth, O Lord, except a few favored spots, is full of ignorance and of the habitations of cruelty. Arise, O Lord God, and assert thy saving and converting power among the miserable victims of spiritual death. Send forth laborers into thy harvest, and bless their labors. May thy choicest blessings rest upon all who are dear to us. May the beauty of the Lord our God be upon them as well as upon us. May we all meet together at the right hand of thy throne, and see him whom we love with joy in the place where there is no night, and no sorrow, and no sin. Unto God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the eternal God, we would ascribe praise everlasting. And through Christ we would expect an answer to our imperfect prayers, because worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive glory, and honor, and blessing.

THURSDAY MORNING.—HOSEA VII. VIII.

O LORD, to whom alone belongeth all power in heaven and earth; thou mighty God who rulest over all, look down in mercy on us,

thine erring and feeble children, as we now at the footstool of thy throne present our humble prayers. Look on us in Christ; see us in the face of thine Anointed; and whilst thou seest us to be poor, and wretched, and miserable, and blind, and naked, and altogether vile, remember that worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and for his sake hear us graciously. We have nothing to offer thee but the sacrifice of sinful hearts; but we implore that by thy grace thou wouldst make them holy altars on which to do thee homage. Help us to present ourselves before thee a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to the Lord. We offer up our praises and thanksgivings to thee for the many mercies with which thou hast been pleased to bless us. Thou hast cast our lot in a happy and a highly favored land. Thou hast given us thy word in our own tongue. Thou hast offered for our reception a salvation finished and free. Thou hast filled our cup, and spread our table. Thy hand has led us through the slippery paths of youth. Thine arm has been around us as a shield. From the first moment we opened our eyes on the light of this world, thou hast upholden us. Yet alas! O Lord, what return have we made for all thy goodness? We have forgotten thee the God that made us; we have lightly esteemed thee the rock of our salvation. We have sinned and come short of the glory of God; we have departed from the paths of integrity; we have loved the darkness rather than the light. The Lord pardon our iniquities. The Lord hear us when we cry for forgiveness, and mercifully blot our transgressions out of the book of thy remembrance. Help us, O Lord, to recognize thy hand in all the events continually occurring around us; and to read thy will in the book of providence, as well as in the book of revelation. Blessed be thy name, that thou art fencing in our way, even as with a hedge, and permitting us not to sin without showing us that thou art angry with sinners every day. Sanctify thy ways of dealing with us. And when thou chastenest us, either as individuals, or families, or communities, O turn us at thy rebuke, and give us, in our happy experience, to confess that even afflictions from thy fatherly hand are blessings in disguise. Take the members of this family, O Father, under thy gracious care. Through this day guide, and uphold, and bless us. Render our efforts all successful, making us to sing for joy and gladness. Give us strength and grace to rise above every temptation we encounter, and enable us to walk as the children of the light. And may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every way, working in us that which is well-pleasing in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee the Father, and the ever-blessed Spirit, be glory forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—1 PETER IV.

BLESSED be thy great name, O Lord, that we, thine unworthy servants, have been protected in safety and peace through the course of another day, and once more permitted to gather ourselves around our family altar. Let our evening prayers ascend into thy presence as the savor of a sweet-smelling sacrifice, and let an answer to our humble supplications be graciously vouchsafed. We thank thee that thou hast thought upon us in our lost condition, and hast not left us to perish for lack of spiritual knowledge. We bless thee that thou hast given us thy word, making known to us the principles we are to believe, and the precepts we are to obey. O may we be enabled to take it as the rule of our faith, and the guide of our practice. May we have our conversation as becometh the gospel, giving all diligence to add to our faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly-kindness; and to brotherly-kindness, charity; so that these things being in us, and abounding, we may neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pardon, we beseech thee, the sins which we have this day committed. Our sins of thought, and word, and deed, Lord, who can reckon? They are more in number than the very stars of heaven. But we bless thee that with thee there is plenteous redemption that thou mayest be sought unto. And therefore we would cry to thee for mercy to pardon us. O let not our sins be remembered against us. And let enlarged supplies of grace be imparted to us, that we may be enabled hereafter to walk in the ways of thy commandments, having the light of our profession so shining, that others seeing our good works may be led to glorify thee our Father in heaven. We offer up our thanksgivings for the goodness which through the course of another day we have been privileged to receive. Thou hast fed us with food convenient for us; thou hast clothed us, and sheltered us from the storm; thou hast kept our bodies in health, and our spirits in peace. And what shall we render to the Lord for his goodness? O that our souls and all that is within us were stirred up to praise and magnify thy name; thou forgivest our iniquities, thou healest our diseases, thou coverest us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. And now, Lord, that the shades of another night have gathered round us, and that we are to close our eyes in slumber, O do thou watch over us, and spare all the members of this family to meet together on another morning. And when we see the light of another day, may our hearts glow with grateful affection to that God who watches over his people as the apple of his eye. Our prayers, O Lord, are before thee. Hear in mercy, and gracious y answer for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—HOSEA XI. XII.

WHOM have we in the heavens but thee, O God? and there is none upon the earth whom our souls desire besides thee. When our flesh and our hearts are fainting and failing, thou art the strength of our heart, and our portion forever. Surely, O Lord, we are unworthy of the great privilege of standing in thy presence, and making our requests known to thee by prayer. Pour out upon us the influences of thy Spirit, as a spirit of prayer and supplication, that we may be enabled to come before thee and find acceptance. Lord, teach us how to pray. And do thou, for the sake of Christ Jesus, listen graciously to our humble petitions. We thank thee, O Father, for all the mercies which thou art daily causing to pass before us. As a family, and as individuals, we have experienced much of thy goodness. From our earliest years thou hast cared for us, and led us in safety through the slippery paths of youth. In the midst of our unworthiness, thou hast graciously supplied all our wants, granting us health, and strength, and peace, and all the worldly comforts which our circumstances required. And if in the ways of thy wise yet unsearchable providence, thou hast been pleased to visit us with personal or family afflictions; if thou hast laid thy chastening hand upon us, or called away those that were dear to us, still we rejoice in the hope that thou makest all things work together for good to them who believe, and who are called according to the purpose of God. And therefore, O Lord, upon the review of thy past goodness, we would now call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to be stirred up to bless thy holy name, who forgiveth our iniquities, who healeth all our diseases, who redeemeth our life from destruction, who crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies, who satisfieth our mouth with good things, so that our youth is renewed as the eagles. But, O Lord, we have to lament our ingratitude, and our unprofitableness. Though thou hast given us, in addition to our temporal blessings, the unspeakable gift of thy Son; though thou hast sent him to seek and save us, and hast given to us the blessed gospel, making known to us the things that belong to our peace, yet have we to confess that we are ungrateful as the recipients of thy bounty, and unprofitable as professing believers in Christ. Like thy people of old we have compassed thee about with lies and with deceit; for while we have professed to love and serve thee, like them we have gone after strange gods, and served the desires of our corrupted hearts. Lord, hear us when we cry for pardon. Forgive, we entreat thee, all our iniquities. Blot our sins out of the book of thy remembrance, and draw us with the cords of a man, with bands of love, and cause us to turn to thee, to keep mercy and judgment, and wait on our God continually. In the multitude of thy mercies we have been permitted to see the light of another day. Thanks be to thee for the comfortable circumstances in which we are this morning gathered together. Blessed be thy name for the repose we have enjoyed, and

the peace thou continuest with us. And now that our avocations cause us to go forth once more to the world, Lord, do thou go with us where we go, and abide with us where we abide, so that we may act ever under the impression that thou, Lord, seest us. Fit us for our duties; enable us to be diligent in business, and fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. God be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us. Save now, we beseech thee, O Lord; we beseech thee, send now prosperity. Let thy blessing rest upon us, let thy presence go with us, let thy Spirit guide us, let thine arm uphold us, let our iniquities be forgiven us, that we may have that peace which the world cannot give us, nor take away. And to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, be glory and praise, now and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—1 PETER V.

WE bless thee, O Lord, that after the labors and cares of another day we are permitted in peace to meet around our household altar, and present before thee our evening sacrifice. For all the goodness which personally, or as a family, we have experienced, we would desire to give thee thanks. For all the sins we have committed, our sins of thought, and word, and deed, we would ask forgiveness. And now, as we kneel in thy presence, we implore that thou wouldst graciously hear us, and grant our requests. We bless thee that thou didst think upon us in our lost condition; that thou didst devise the plan of redemption, and in due time accomplish it by the sacrifice of thy Son. We thank thee for the everlasting gospel, wherein are revealed the glorious doctrines of salvation. We thank thee for the establishment of thy church on earth, and for the various privileges which within it we enjoy. Oh! that all its members were members of the body of Christ, washed in his blood, sanctified by thy grace, and fitted for duty in this life, and for glory in the life that is to come. Oh! that its office-bearers were all clothed with salvation, that the people may shout for joy, and that the gospel may have free course and be greatly glorified among the people. And Oh! that all professing Christians were enabled to walk as becometh their high vocation, living soberly, righteously, and godly, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. May all of us, O Lord, benefit by the various privileges with which we are favored. May the example of those who have preceded us, stimulate us to diligence and activity in the service of Christ. May our souls be watered by the preaching of the word, and the administration of ordinances within the sanctuary. May we remember that they that are Christ's, have crucified the flesh with its affections and lusts: and that we having professed ourselves to be his, it is incumbent on us to live in accordance with the precepts of the gospel. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with his benefits, even the God of our salvation.

It is God that guideth us with strength, and maketh our way perfect, that hath blessed the work of our hands. Our houses have been safe from fear, and there hath been no rod of God upon us, so that the voice of rejoicing and salvation hath been heard in our tabernacle from day to day. But especially do we thank thee, that thou hast blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in Christ. Thou hast laid our help on One who is mighty, even Jesus Christ the righteous. Oh! let us who now worship before thee, have a saving interest in the sacrifice he has offered, and let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. The very God of peace sanctify us wholly, and we pray God our whole spirit, and soul, and body, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let the grace of God, which hath appeared unto all men, bringing salvation, teach us to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, that we may be rendered unto Christ a peculiar people, zealous of good works. And while we thus thank thee for our own privileges, and implore thy blessing upon them, we would remember at thy throne the case of those who are not so highly favored. Hear us, O Lord, when we cry to thee on behalf of the benighted heathen, who are yet lying in darkness and the shadow of death. Let the people who sit in darkness, see a great light; and to them who sit in the region and shadow of death, let light spring up. Bring thy seed from the east, and gather them from the west; say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Keep not back: bring thy sons from afar, and thy daughters from the ends of the earth. From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, let thy name be great among the Gentiles. And now, O God, thou who makest the outgoings of the evening, as well as of the morning, to rejoice over us, to thee do we commit all that belongs to us. Let our souls return to thee and repose in thee as our rest, because thou hast dealt bountifully with us, so shall our sleep be sweet to us. Let the angels of the Lord encamp round us to deliver us, that we may lie down and none make us afraid. And let these, our humble prayers, be heard and answered, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—HOSEA XIII. XIV.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, we would desire on every occasion of drawing near unto thee, to adore thee as the greatest, and the wisest, and the best of beings, who art infinitely good in thyself, and who delightest in the communication of good to all thy creatures. O Lord, thou art indeed our God, thou didst separate us from the womb, thou hast made us continually the objects of thy fatherly care, it is in thee alone that we live and move and have our being; yet we have forgotten thee the God that made us, and lightly esteemed thee the rock of our salvation; we have hardened ourselves

against thy long-suffering and patient forbearance, and too often have we said in our hearts, Let us go on to sin because grace abounds. We have exposed ourselves to thy just and righteous indignation; most justly mightest thou have consumed us in the fierceness of thine anger, and most justly, in leaving us to reap the bitter fruits of our impenitence and obduracy, mightest thou have glorified the perfections of thy character and the purity of thy government. Times and ways without number have we turned a deaf ear to the calls of thy grace, and steeled our hearts in utter insensibility against the good motions of thy blessed Spirit. It is indeed because thou art God and not man, that we have not long ere now been cut down in our sins; it is because thy compassion flows without failing, that we are still in the land of the living and in the place of hope. But blessed, forever blessed be thy holy name, there is mercy with thee that thou mayest be feared, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, even the chief. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. O Lord, it is in the name of the Saviour alone, and in humble dependence on the infinite merits of his sufferings and death in behalf of sinful men, that we now present ourselves at the footstool of thy throne of mercy, humbly imploring of thee the forgiveness of our sins, and the reviving influences of thy Spirit of grace. See, God, our shield; look, we beseech thee, on the face of thine Anointed, and for his sake say unto us, as thou didst unto Ephraim of old, I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely. And, O God, enable us with thy servant Ephraim to put away every one the idol of his heart, and to bring into the light of distinct consciousness, and to crucify with an unsparing hand, our most cherished sins. Turn us, O God, from the evil of our ways, and we shall be turned; give us wisdom to understand the deep things of thy holy law, and make us willing, in the power of thy grace, to walk in thy statutes with perfect hearts. Enable us, O God, to set thee the Lord continually before us, and in the exercise of that faith which worketh by love, to acknowledge thee in all our paths, that we may thus go forward from strength to strength, until at last we become meet, through the merits of the Redeemer, to appear before thee in the heavenly Zion. Make us thankful for the refreshing slumbers which we have enjoyed through the past night, and for the mercies which have preceded the dawn of the morning. May we go forth to the labors of the day in thy fear; may we be fitted by thy grace for all its trials, and may its path of duty be made plain to us by the light of thy truth. Bless us, O God, and all in whose welfare we ought to be interested, with the blessings which thou bestowest upon thy chosen ones, for the sake of Him whom thou hearest always; to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, be everlasting praises, now and henceforth. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—2 PETER I.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift; thou hast bestowed upon us, in Christ Jesus the Saviour, all things that pertain unto life and godliness, and thou hast given us the exceeding great and precious promises of the aids of thy Spirit, to deliver us from the bondage of corruption, and to reinstate us in the liberty of thy dear children. Grant, we humbly beseech thee, most gracious God, that making our escape through thy grace from the corruption that is in the world through lust, we may be come partakers of the divine nature, and have our consciences purged from dead works, to serve thee the living God. May thy Holy Spirit dwelling within us enable us day by day to be adding to our faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly-kindness; and to brotherly-kindness, charity. May we abound in those fruits of the Spirit, being deeply impressed with the feeling that it is thus only that we can have the Spirit of God bearing witness with our spirits that we have passed from death unto life, and that it is thus only that we can make our calling and election sure; that we can know in our own joyful experience what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God, and that we can be confirmed and established in the mind of Christ. Forgive, we earnestly beseech thee, our past abuse of the inestimable privileges which have been so plentifully bestowed upon us. Cut us not down according to our just deserts as cumberers of the ground, but dig about us and dress us, and enable us yet, through the re-animating power of thy grace, to bring forth fruit unto life eternal. Wash us, and make us clean from sin, in that fountain which thou hast opened up for the house of Israel for sin and for uncleanness; renew us in the spirit of our minds; sanctify us wholly by thy truth, and enable us in what may still remain to us of life to redeem the time with redoubled diligence. Fit and prepare us, O most gracious God, for discharging every duty required of us in a manner becoming thy redeemed people, and such as may best promote the advancement and establishment of thy kingdom among men. O make us fellow-workers with thine own Spirit, in reaping the travail of the Redeemer's soul, in promoting the growth of holiness in our own hearts, and in winning our fellow-men to the knowledge, and love, and obedience of the truth. We bless thee, O God, that thou hast established our faith on a sure foundation, that thou hast adapted it to the many wants and weaknesses of our fallen nature, and that thou hast confirmed the mission and doctrine of Jesus as the Messiah, by the manifest fulfilment, in all the circumstances of his life and death, of the word of prophecy, as well as by signs, and wonders, and divers miracles, and especially by his glorious triumph over death and the grave. Enable us, we beseech thee, to give good heed to the precious truths of thy most blessed word, and to wait upon thee in the

appointed ordinances of thy grace, with humble and believing hearts. Prepare us more especially, if thou shalt be pleased to spare us to see the light of a new morning, for the solemn duties of the coming sabbath; may we read and hear the lively oracles of divine truth with deep reverence and attention; may these oracles be applied in season to our souls; and grant, we humbly beseech thee, that while we are yet reading and hearing thy holy word, the quickening Spirit may descend from on high, and cause the day to dawn and the day-star to arise in our hearts. Accept now, most gracious God, the feeble expression of our thanksgiving for all the mercies of the past day and this evening; forgive, we again entreat thee, our many sins and shortcomings, and be with us, with all who are near and dear to us, and with all whom we ought to bear upon our minds at a throne of grace, throughout the watches of the ensuing night, to bless us and to do us good, for Christ's sake. Amen

Forty-Eighth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS CXXXII. CXXXIII.

ETERNAL God, thou art the fountain of light, and life, thou art the Father of our spirits, thou art the Creator and preserver of universal nature. On the morning of thy day we desire to draw near unto thee in the name of Christ, and through the aids of his Spirit to worship thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Accept us, O God, in the face of thine Anointed; blot out our iniquities from the book of thy remembrance, and bestow upon us in double measure the blessings of thy grace. Prepare our hearts, O God, as places of rest for the ark of the covenant, as living temples of holiness, in which may be celebrated continually the praises of thy glorious and unsearchable mercy. We desire to bless thee with our whole hearts, that while thou didst in former times speak unto our fathers by the prophets, giving them the promise of good things to come; thou hast in these last days spoken unto us, their children, by the mouth of thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, whom thou hast now revealed in all the fulness of grace and truth, and in whom thou hast brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. We bless thee for all that he did, and taught, and suffered on our account, and for all that he is still doing, now that he has ascended up on high to perfect his work in the hearts of his people, and to prepare for them a place of everlasting rest. We bless thee that we have in our hands the precious volume of revealed truth, that we enjoy the privilege of worshipping thee according to the dictates of conscience,

no man making us afraid, that the solemnities of the weekly recurring sabbath have it for their object to call off our attention from the things of the world, and to fix it on the enduring realities of eternity; and especially that from our earliest years we have been instructed in the knowledge of our God and Saviour, whom to know in the power of his gospel, is life everlasting. Well doth it become us to exclaim, under emotions of the deepest and most fervent gratitude, Surely the Lord hath done great and wonderful things for us, and things whereof it becometh us to be glad; he hath not dealt so with any people. But alas, Lord, the distinguished privileges which we enjoy can tend only to deepen our condemnation, unless we are enabled, through the aids of the living Spirit of grace, to improve them to thy glory, and to our own good. Forgive, we humbly entreat thee, our past unfruitfulness under the ministry of thy grace, and quicken us henceforth by the power of thy Spirit, that we may yield fruit abundantly unto eternal life. Fill, we beseech thee, the mouths of thy ministering servants among us with the praises of thine everlasting righteousness, and enable them to show it forth, in all its beauty and fulness, to those among whom thou hast appointed them to labor in holy things; and, O God, make thy people willing in the day of thy power, clothe them with the garment of praise, and cause them to shout aloud for joy. Make the horn of David to bud in Zion, and ordain there thy blessed word as illumined by the light of thine eternal Spirit, to be to thy people for a light to their feet and a lamp unto their paths. Pour forth upon us this day, we beseech thee, the Spirit of prayer and supplication, of love towards thee, our God, and of brotherly-kindness and charity towards our fellow-men. May the prayers of a united people, animated by one common Spirit, and feeling themselves to be members of that spiritual body of which Jesus himself is the living head, and thus also members one of another, united in the bonds of a more than brotherly affection, rise up before thee this day in grateful memorial from the courts of thy sanctuary, and bring down upon us the blessing which thou hast commanded, even life for evermore. Be this day in all the worshipping assemblies of thy people, and carry forth, we beseech thee, to the ends of the earth the preaching of the everlasting gospel. Hasten, for thine own name's sake, and for the glory of thy grace, the happy period when the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and when the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, when the universal church shall be established in love and peace, and when thy will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. Hear us, O God, in heaven thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest forgive, and send us an answer of mercy and peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS CXXXIV. CXXXV.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who wast, who art, and who art to come. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, the only proper object of all religious homage and veneration. We rejoice to know that thou didst so love the world as to send into it thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, that whosoever should believe on him might not perish, but have everlasting life. We bless thee, that thou hast planted in the midst of us the ministry of the everlasting gospel; that thou hast given us free access to the ordinances of salvation, and that thou hast displayed before our eyes Jesus Christ, and him crucified; that we may obtain redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. O let it not be our condemnation, that light is come into the world, and that we have yet preferred the darkness to the light, through our love of that which is evil. But open our eyes, we beseech thee, that we may see our lost and perishing state by nature, and our unspeakable need of Christ to be our Saviour; that we may see the folly of every ground of trust which has not for its foundation the righteousness of God in Christ, and that we may be led, while the day of grace is yet lengthened out to us, to flee for refuge to lay hold on the hope set before us in the gospel. Impress effectually on our hearts and consciences what we have this day read and heard from thy blessed word, and give us that living faith in its saving truths which worketh by love, which purifieth the heart, and which overcometh the world. Enlighten us by the teaching of thy Spirit from on high, and give us, through him also, the contrite and believing heart, and the submissive and willing mind, that we may be conformed in all things to the pure and spotless example of our divine Redeemer, having the Lord himself formed within us, and being fully established in the mind of Christ. Heavenly Father, make thy grace sufficient for us, perfect thy strength in our weakness, and work in us in all things both to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Forgive, we beseech thee, the sins of our holy things, and more especially the many short-comings and infirmities that have marked the discharge of our religious duties during the past day. Suffer us not to rest satisfied with any attainment we may have already made, but teach us to press forward day by day with increasing eagerness towards the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. O God, make it ever the most earnest desire of our hearts, to glorify thee in our bodies and in our spirits which are thine, and to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus the Lord, that we may win him, and be found in him, not having our own righteousness, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God through faith. Gracious God, follow with thy effectual blessings the whole religious services in which thy people have been engaged during the past day. Enable all that have named the name

of Christ to depart from iniquity, and hasten in its appointed time the joyful period when the whole earth shall become one vast temple of its Maker's praise, and when all thy rational creatures shall be ministering servants at thy holy altar. We would thank thee, now, for all the goodness which thou hast made to pass before us. We would again entreat of thee, the forgiveness of our sins and short-comings, and we would implore for ourselves, and for all whom we ought to have upon our minds at a throne of grace, the watchful care of thy providence throughout the ensuing night. And all that we ask, and hope to receive, we ask in the name, and through the mediation of our great Intercessor, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, be everlasting praise. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—JOEL I.

DRAW near now, O Lord, unto us, while we humbly seek to draw near unto thee; give unto us the spirit of grace and of supplication, and that sense of unworthiness and self-abasement, which becomes creatures laden with sin as we are, in making approach to a thrice holy God. We bless and praise thee that amid all our unworthiness, thou hast revealed unto us a way of access, and given us a name to plead which is above every name. We come before thee in the name of the Saviour, humble, penitent, anxious believers; we trust in his name, and beseech thee to look graciously upon us for his sake. We adore thee as the God of our life, and the author of all our mercies; we give thee thanks for all thy goodness which thou hast made to pass before us. Hitherto, we would say, hath the Lord helped us. Before we knew the hand from which our comforts flowed, or could raise our souls in gratitude to the Author of our mercies, thou didst watch over and sustain the interests of our being. Yet thou art a God of judgment as well as of mercy; thy judgments have been abroad in the earth, thou hast made bare thine arm and smitten the nations; and truly if thou hadst dealt with us according to our deservings, if thou hadst laid justice to the line and equity to the plummet, we had not been here in comfort before thee. We desire to remember, O Lord, that we are monuments each one of us of thy great long-suffering, that it is because thy thoughts are not as ours, nor thy ways as ours, that we are still in the place of hope. O give us a sanctified use of the dealings of thy providence, as they are declared in thy word. May they come home with power to our souls; may thy long-suffering in our own case lead us to repentance, to a devoted and faithful living unto thee, lest this threatening of thy word be at last fulfilled on us, 'he that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.' Help us, Lord, to feel our dependence upon thee for life, and breath, and all things; that with all our superiority over the other creatures of this lower world, we are yet as dependent as

the meanest of them, and have nothing that we have not received; that in spiritual things also, as well as in temporal, the blessings cometh from above; while Paul may plant, and Apollos may water, that the increase is from the Lord. O may the good seed of the word be implanted and take deep root in our souls; may it be watered with the dew of thy blessing, and be manifested abroad in fruits of righteousness to thy glory. In all circumstances, O God, we will look unto thee; what time our hearts are overwhelmed and in perplexity, do thou lead us unto the Rock of ages. Give unto us to experience protection under its shade, and refreshing and comfort from the stream of blessing that flows from it. Grant that this spiritual rock may follow us through the burden and heat of this day; enable us to realize through the course of it a sense of thy presence, and to experience the direction and aid of thy Spirit, and in all that we put our hand unto, have a regard to thy glory. Hear us in Christ, and accept of us for his sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—2 PETER II.

WE desire, O Lord, at the close of another day, to draw near unto thee, and to present our united tribute of thanksgiving and praise for thy gracious providence which hath watched over us throughout it. We desire to humble ourselves before thee, on account of our sins of the past day, of thought, of word, and of deed; we beseech thee to look in mercy upon us, cause thy countenance yet to shine upon us, and we shall be saved. We bless thy name for thy word, which thou hast given us for a light unto our feet, and a lamp unto our path. O incline our hearts ever so to adopt it; and when at any time dubious paths may perplex the mind, may we turn to this guide, and in its faithful counsels trace the path of duty; may we see written, even as with a sunbeam, This is the way, walk ye in it. O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? In the blindness of their hearts men have sought to pervert it, even to wrest the scripture to the ruin of souls; do thou dispel the mists of human prejudice and error by which it may ever be attempted to darken it, and through thy grace may we enabled to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. May thy law be our delight. Like thy servants of old, may we be able to say of thy testimonies, More to be desired are they than gold; yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb. Our times are in thy hand, thou numberest the days of our generations here; by the more awful dispensations of thy providence, or in the silent course of ordinary nature, we are speedily removed from this earthly scene, and the place that knoweth us now, knows us no more. Impress our minds, O Lord, with a becoming sense of the shortness and uncertainty of the period of our present being, that we may not crowd its little span with those things that are displeasing in thy sight, and which will be recorded in awful characters

against us in heaven. May thy judgments which have been abroad in the earth, touch our hearts, and lead us, in this our day, to seek for the things which belong to our peace, before they be forever hid from our eyes. Leave us not, O God, unto ourselves; we have to mourn over the power of depravity within us, a law in our members which warreth against the law of our mind. O give us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord; dethrone the god of this world in our souls, and reign thyself there, to the bringing of every thought, and feeling, and desire into captivity to the love of Christ. In the service of sin, which thou hatest, may we never seek for our happiness; save us from the fatal influence of those who would persuade us to seek it in such a source; and if we have been favored ever to taste, even in smallest measure, the comfort of thy service and the joys of the Spirit, O suffer us not again to be entangled in the yoke of bondage; to be found in the dark scenes of earthly pollution. But may our path be as that of the sun when he goeth forth in his strength, shining more and more unto the perfect day; may our evidences become clearer both unto ourselves and to others, that thy glory is our object, and that heaven is our end. Watch over us during the silence of the coming night; spare us to see the light of a new day, and to enter upon its duties. May we rise to engage in them in the fear of the Lord, to maintain a witness for thee. Hear us in the Son of thy love, and accept of us for his sake.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JOEL II.

ON this morning of a new day we desire, O Lord, to present ourselves before thee; with prayer and thanksgiving, to draw near unto the footstool of thy throne. Who shall not fear thee, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy? We have heard with our ears; the writings of the fathers have told us, what wonderful works thou didst in their days. Truly thou hast an arm that is full of power, strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand; thou art clothed with honor and with majesty; clouds and darkness are round about thee, righteousness and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. We are unworthy to come into thy presence. O that we may feel our unworthiness, and be enabled in drawing near to rend our hearts in true contrition before thee, with godly sorrow that worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of; to mourn over our own backslidings. Times and ways without number, O Lord, we have forgotten thee; we have wandered upon the mountains of sin and vanity, and the God in whose hand our breath is, have we not glorified. We have to lament sin committed, and duties omitted, opportunities lost in which we might have witnessed more faithfully for thee, and more resolutely maintained thy cause. O be merciful unto us, and pardon our iniquity, for it is great; far as we have wandered, and grievously as we have sinned, do thou yet remember us with favor; visit us

with thy salvation, that we may see the good of thy chosen, and rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that we may glory with thine inheritance. We rejoice to know that when thou afflictest, thou afflictest not willingly, but for profit, and that behind the gloom of a present frowning providence there is distinguishable, by the eye of faith, the smile of a heavenly Father's love; great are thy promises of returning favor to thy people when they truly humble themselves under thy chastening hand. O give us a sanctified use of all thy dispensations; make them instrumental in bringing us nearer to thyself, in subduing the enmity of our hearts, and leading us to set our affections upon those things which are above, whence we look for thy coming. Help us to maintain upon our souls an expectation of thy coming, and to cultivate a preparedness and meetness for it. May we remember that we have no continuing city here, but we are pilgrims and strangers on the earth, as were all our fathers; may we seek ever to possess the feeling of pilgrims; and by the whole tone of our life and conversation declare plainly that we seek a country, even an heavenly. We bless thy name that we are able, in full assurance of faith, to look forward unto a time of great spiritual refreshing from thy presence. We humbly pray thee for a measure of this blessing now, and that our souls may be thus visited individually. Quicken us, Lord, yet more to thy love; may our desire be yet more toward thy service and our aim yet more for thy glory. Revive thy work in our neighborhood, and in this family, and throughout the earth may thy kingdom come. Direct and be with us this day; may we be faithful in all things to thy cause, remembering the vows which we have left at thine altar. Accept of us, and vouchsafe unto us an answer in peace, for the Lord Jesus sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—2 PETER III.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we desire this evening to bow ourselves before thee; with the humble confidence of children to draw near in the service of adoration and praise. We adore thee as the self-existent Jehovah who art from everlasting to everlasting, who sittest upon the throne of the universe, and rulest the affairs of all worlds. One day is with thee as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day; when thou hast proposed, none can disannul it; when thou hast stretched forth thine arm, none can turn it back. We are of few days; as a flower we come forth and are cut down, our life flieth as a shadow, and there is none abiding. Everything connected with our existence here is transient and perishing; thy word assures us that even the heavens which we behold shall vanish away as the cloud that covers them, and that the earth on which we tread shall dissolve like a morning-dream; that they who dwell therein shall die in like manner. We believe these solemn

revelations. O may they possess over us a constraining influence; may they lead us to moderate our anxieties after the treasures of earth; to strive to sit lightly to all mere worldly joys or sorrows, and with increasing desire to seek for an inheritance and portion in heaven. Thou hast veiled in solemn mystery, from all created beings, the time of thy second coming; and hast concealed in mercy from us the period when our frail bodies shall return to the dust whence they were taken, and our souls pass upward to judgment. Through weakness of our flesh we could not bear the disclosures, yet, O may the uncertainty which hangs over an issue so momentous, lead us to watch and be sober, so as this day may not come upon us un-awares. In whatsoever our hand findeth to do may we be diligent, that when the Lord cometh we may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless. Help us to keep our eyes steadily fixed on the promised glories of immortality, amid the troubles of life to remember that there remaineth a rest for the people of God, and under the discouragements in thy service to take comfort from the assurance that in due season we shall reap if we faint not. Regard us individually as worshippers before thee; enlighten what is dark within us, quicken what is dead to thy love, confirm what is wavering, and enable us to follow on yet more to know the Lord, to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray for those with whom we are more immediately connected, kindred and friends, may their souls prosper. We pray for all our brethren of the world; may thy word have free course, and be glorified; may the Redeemer see largely of the travail of his soul. Take us this night under thy divine protection; grant us in thy great mercy to rest in peace, and to rise in comfort, with our bodies invigorated, and our souls refreshed from on high; may we be permitted to enter upon the duties and trials of a new day. Hear us in the Beloved, and accept of us for his sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JOEL III.

O THOU supreme Creator, and most righteous Governor of the universe, who doest according to thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, we adore thy majesty, we stand in awe before thy mighty power. Thou seest and declarest the end from the beginning, and orderest all events for the furtherance of thy glory, and for the good of thine Israel. We would trust in thy providence; we would rest in thy promises; we would wait and pray for the coming of thy kingdom, and for the establishment and consolation of thy redeemed people. We beseech thee, O Lord, to look in mercy on thine ancient and outcast people. Rebuke and turn the hearts of their persecutors; especially deliver them from the bondage of a hardened and unbelieving mind, and set them again in their own land, that they may declare the name of the Lord in Zion, and his

praise in Jerusalem; that the heathen may fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth his glory. O thou who hast purchased thy church with thine own blood, do thou protect, and guide, and sustain, and abundantly bless thy believing people of every name. Keep them from the evil that is in the world. Enable them to glorify thee by their faithful testimony for thy truth, and their holy and unblamable conversation. Prepare them for the trials that are to come upon the earth. Shorten the times of tribulation, and hasten the universal prevalence of righteousness, and truth, and peace. Be pleased speedily to remove every obstacle to the progress of thy work. Let Zion's watchmen see eye to eye. Grant a spirit of love, and of power, and of a sound mind, to thy weak and distracted church. Let not Ephraim envy Judah, or Judah vex Ephraim, but let them join in withstanding thine enemies and their own. Bruise Satan under thy people's feet. Defeat his rage. Turn his craft into foolishness. Expose the delusions of Antichrist. Consume that Man of sin by the breath of thy mouth, and the brightness of thy coming, and let there be no enemy to hurt or to offend in all thy holy mountain. We give thee united thanks for the rest of the night, and for the renewed tokens of thy bountiful kindness with the opening of a new day. Enable us to glorify thee in thine undeserved gifts. O let thy good hand be upon us for good this day. Suffer us not to be moved from our fidelity to thee. Keep us from all outward, and from all spiritual ill, and preserve us even to thy heavenly kingdom, for Christ Jesus' sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—1 JOHN I.

O THOU Almighty and most glorious Father, thou eternal Life, who givest life to thy creatures, and thyself derivest it from none; thou uncreated light, in whom is no darkness at all, we, the unworthy creatures of thy hand, would bow before thy footstool in deepest reverence and humility. How shall we find acceptance in thy sight? We are but of yesterday, feeble, ignorant, and wholly dependent on thee, and yet we have sinned; we have wandered far from the most pure light of thy presence; we have walked in darkness, and by our unfruitful works of darkness we have oftentimes provoked thy righteous wrath. Oh! we thank thee that thou hast pitied us in our guilty and miserable estate; that thou hast sent thy dear Son to deliver us, and to restore us to light and life with thyself. Blessed be thy name for the privilege of confessing our sins, and returning to thee as a Father, compassionate and reconciled through the blood of Jesus Christ. Do thou now pity us; accept and heal us, O our Father in heaven. For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. O thou eternal and most blessed Word, thou only light and life of a fallen world, we bless thee for thy designs of love, conceived while in the bosom of the Fa-

ther, towards the sinful children of men. We praise thee, that in the fulness of time thou didst become manifest in the flesh, submitting to be born of a woman, and to carry our griefs, and to bear our infirmities; especially that thou didst endure an accursed death, that thus becoming sin for us, we might be made the righteousness of God in thee. Let us gladly receive the testimony of them who saw and believed, that we may obtain the blessedness of those who have not seen and yet have believed. For this end send thy Holy Spirit of promise into our hearts. O vouchsafe more and more of the gift of thy good Spirit, that we may know thee not only by the hearing of the ear, but in the daily and blessed experience of our souls; that in holy fellowship with thee and with all saints, our joy may be full, and that we may abound in the fruits of righteousness which are to thy praise. We thank thee, O Lord, for thy continued and unmerited goodness; that the outgoings of the morning and the evening are still made to rejoice over us. We commit ourselves, and all who are dear to us, to thy keeping this night. Under a sense of thy blessing let us lie down and not be afraid, and so our sleep shall be sweet. On a new day may we rise to praise thee, and let goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life. Look in mercy on all who are in distress. Give them a speedy issue out of their afflictions; meantime be pleased to sustain, to comfort, and to sanctify them. Prepare the dying for their great change. Give them a victory over death, and him who has the power of death, by faith in Jesus. We pray for the good estate of thy church. Do thou purify, and extend, and protect it. God be merciful unto us as a professing people, and bless us, and so his way shall be known upon the earth, and his saving health unto all nations. Hear, and answer, and accept us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—AMOS I.

O THOU everlasting and unchangeable Sovereign, who rulest in the heavens, and on the earth, and doest whatsoever seemeth thee good; thou art to be adored, and loved, and served, for thou art supremely excellent in thyself, and thy governments is directed by unerring wisdom, and perfect rectitude, and boundless goodness. Thou dwellest in Zion, and art there seated on a throne of grace, dispensing blessings to thy humble and believing people. We would desire, as a family, on this morning of a new day, to come to thee with the voice of praise and prayer. O let us partake of the satisfying provision of Zion, and as Zion's children make us joyful in thee our gracious King. Thou hast made reconciliation for iniquity by the death and obedience of thy Son. Thou art very good and merciful to all who come unto thee by Christ. Let us taste of thy grace. O save us by the almighty power of thy Spirit. Thou art terrible, O righteous Father, in thy vengeance against the

workers of iniquity. Even out of Zion wilt thou roar against thine enemies. Preserve us from turning the grace of our Lord into lasciviousness, and bringing upon ourselves swift destruction. Let us delight to obey thy holy precepts, with fear and trembling may we work out our salvation from the power of sin. We are now about to mingle anew in an evil world. We go forth trusting in thee. O Lord, enable us faithfully to perform its duties, and steadfastly to resist its wickedness. Let us not love the world, nor any evil thing that is in the world. Save us especially from the power of covetousness. Grant us in all our dealings with our fellow-men, a spirit of equity, and meekness, and forbearance, and love, that not by our lips only, but in our lives, we may adorn Christ's doctrine, and show forth his praise. We praise thee for thy distinguished kindness to us as a nation, that in so great a degree we have been exempted from the outward messengers of thy wrath, from the ills of famine, and pestilence, and the sword, especially that thou hast established thy testimony and thy law in the midst of us, and that from the fathers to the children, the message of thy grace is made known. We acknowledge our unfaithfulness, and our many backslidings. We confess that we have even deserved to perish with the nations and kingdoms that have opposed Christ. O grant us, universally, the spirit of repentance and fidelity to thee. Let our earthly sovereign rule in thy fear. Let all who are in authority over us be subject unto the Lord Jesus Christ, that we, under them, may lead quiet, and peaceable, and godly lives, and that glory may dwell in our land. We pray that the kingdom of Christ may speedily extend to all lands. Let all the kings fall down before Messiah, and let all nations serve him; and to thee, O Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, be ascribed the glory, the dominion, and the power, now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—1 JOHN II.

WE desire again, O Almighty Father, to come into thy most holy presence, and to spread before thee our returning wants. Let our prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. We have, anew, to profess our shortcomings and our offences. Our own hearts condemn us, and thou art greater than our hearts. How much more then are we condemned in thy pure sight? We feel our constant need to have recourse to that fountain which thou hast opened for sin and for uncleanness. Forgive, for Jesus' sake, whatever thou hast seen amiss in our temper and conduct during the past day. Speak peace to our souls by the blood of Jesus. Wash us from all our filthiness, and let us lie down in such a frame of mind that should we never wake again in this world, we may be meet for waking in thy presence, and beholding thy face in righteousness. If thou shalt be pleased to

spare us to a new day, suffer us not to turn again unto folly. Enable us to value the lengthening out of our days only that we may grow in grace, and finish thy work. Cause us, O Lord, to grow in holy love. Deliver us from the power of all selfish passions, and let us walk towards all men after the example of Christ's unspeakable love to us. Save us from the love of this present evil world. Teach us the insufficiency of every worldly joy, and the ungodliness of every worldly lust, that when the world and the lust thereof shall have passed away, we may find an abiding portion in thy favor. O save us from the wiles of antichristian deceivers. Grant us an unction from the Holy One, that we may know the truth, and cleave to it, and that, abiding in thy holy truth, we may abide in the Son and in the Father. We would bear the necessities of our brethren on our spirits at thy footstool. Be the friend of our friends. Reward our benefactors. Forgive our enemies if we have any, and grant us hearts also to forgive them, as we seek forgiveness from thee. Do good unto them that are good. Pity and reclaim all who are out of the way. Have compassion on the multitudes who are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. Let all nations be blessed in Jesus, and let all nations call him blessed. Pour out thy Spirit abundantly on the parish and congregation to which we belong. Give increasing wisdom, and fidelity, and strength to thy servant who is over us in the Lord, and to all who are called to labor in thy work. Prosper them greatly in their faithful labors, and let the souls of thine elect be speedily gathered in, and the praise and the glory shall be thine own, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—AMOS IV.

O LORD God of hosts, we adore thee as almighty, all-wise, and most holy, the maker and preserver of all. Give us grace to worship thee with sincerity and truth, for thou knowest and declarest to man what is his thought. May we be humbled under the affecting record which thy word contains of the deceit and depravity of our hearts. Thy grace alone restrains us from the excesses which provoked thine anger against thine ancient people. Our presumptuous sins and secret faults might justly have moved thee to visit us with thy judgments, and cast us utterly away. Even in our offerings, and sacrifices, and solemn assemblies, we multiply transgression. Yet, O Lord, in the midst of deserved judgments, thou still rememberest mercy. Thou hast passed by before us, and proclaimed thy name, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. For thy name's sake pardon our iniquities, for they are very great. We plead the unchanging promise of the new covenant, I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Create also within us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right

spirit within us. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. May the fruits of that Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, be matured in our hearts, and exhibited in our lives. As thou hast appointed a day in which thou wilt judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom thou hast ordained, may we give all diligence to prepare to meet our God. Increase our faith, and bring us more powerfully and habitually under the influence of things unseen and eternal. The life which we now live in the flesh, may we live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us. Impress us deeply with the shortness and uncertainty of life; and seeing that all earthly things must soon be dissolved, may we, in all holy conversation and godliness, be looking and preparing for the coming of the day of God. We thank thee for the gifts and mercies of thy providence. How great is the sum of them! if we would count them, they are more than the sand; when we awake we are still with thee. We have laid us down and slept; we have awaked; for the Lord sustained us. Thy mercies and compassions are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. May goodness and mercy follow us during this day, spreading a table for us in the wilderness, delivering us from dangers and temptations, and strengthening us for all duties. Be the portion of our kindred, and adopt them into that family whose members Christ will own for his brethren. Be the refuge of the afflicted, and may tribulation yield to them the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Bless the church of Christ with peace and prosperity; upon all its members may the Lord command the blessing, even life for evermore. May the dispersed of Israel soon be gathered in; for thou hast promised to bring thy seed from the east, and to gather them from the west; to say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth. Let thy kingdom come, when all the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—1 JOHN III.

O RIGHTEOUS and eternal God! in thy free and sovereign grace receive us as thy children, and impart to us a filial spirit, that with all liberty we may have access to thee as our Father in heaven. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has predestinated us unto the adoption of children, according to the good pleasure of thy will. Everlasting praise be unto thee, O Saviour, who givest power to such as believe on thy name to become the sons of God. And we magnify thee, O divine and most gracious Spirit, who by thine inhabitation beatest witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. Adored be thy name that we, who were

the children of disobedience and wrath, have been translated into thy family and become heirs of glory. Make us sensible that we were by nature even as others, guilty and polluted, and that all our privileges and prospects redound to the praise of the glory of thy grace, wherein thou hast made us accepted in the Beloved. May the hope set before us exert a hallowed and purifying influence upon our souls, transforming us more and more into the holy and beautiful image of Jesus. Enable us to abide in him, and then shall we glorify thee our Father, by bringing forth much fruit unto righteousness. The Lord make us to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men. Of the abundance with which thou blessest us, make us willing to communicate to the wants of others; imbue us deeply with that love which moved the Redeemer to lay down his life for us. Seal us with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession. Preserve us, O God, from temptations, corruption, and grievous sins which wound the conscience, lest we grieve thy Holy Spirit. We thy children are weak, dependent, and ignorant; O our Father instruct, protect, and provide for us. Chasten us for our profit, that we may be partakers of thy holiness; and let us not despise thy chastenings, nor faint when we are rebuked of thee. We pray that the heathen and all families of the earth may soon know and call upon thy name, and that all kindreds of the nations may worship before thee as a reconciled Father. May the country to which we belong be a land wherein dwelleth righteousness. Unite our relatives to thyself as thy children by adoption. May the afflicted know that thou chastenest because thou lovest them, and thus possess their souls in patience. In thy pity, O Father, forgive the sins of this day, and make us grateful for its mercies. Keep us this night, for thou neither slumberest nor sleepest; and let our sleep be sweet and refreshing. If the Lord will, may we awake in health and peace, to devote our preserved lives to his service. Let our prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—AMOS V.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord of hosts! the whole earth is full of thy glory. Wherewith shall we come before the Lord, and bow ourselves before the high God? If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? Thou knowest our manifold iniquities and grievous sins; they are more than the hairs of our head; they have been done against clear light, against many mercies, and against the motions and strivings of thy Holy Spirit. We have sinfully given that glory to the creature which was due to thee, the ever-blessed Creator. We have not done justly, nor loved mercy, nor walked humbly with our God. If thou hadst laid judg-

ment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet, we had been found altogether perverse. O most merciful God, no sacrifices which we can offer, can atone for sin; enable us to look with faith and penitence to the great sacrifice once offered upon the cross, even Jesus. We bless thee that when thou hadst no pleasure in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, he said, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. May he be made of thee unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Encouraged by thy gracious invitations, we desire to seek thee in the way appointed in thy word. While we seek thee in prayer, be thou found of us. Fulfil unto us thy promise, Ye shall live. Begin in each of us thy good work, and carry it forward unto perfection. Let our minds be filled with spiritual light, and our whole souls with zeal for thy glory. Fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power. Animated by promises, may we give all diligence to adorn the doctrine of our God and Saviour, by adding to our faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity; for if these things be in us, and abound, they make us that we shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for the spread and enlargement of the Redeemer's kingdom. May every valley soon be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, and the crooked made straight, and the rough places made plain. Let thy glory, O Lord, be revealed, and all flesh see it together. We would bear on our spirits before thee, the interests of those to whom we are united by any of the ties of thy providence; enrich them with thy favor, which is life, and with thy loving-kindness, which is better than life; let none of them be wanting when thou makest up thy jewels. Visit, in compassion, the sons and daughters of affliction. According as their day is, such may their strength be. Impart consolation to those who are mourning over the bereavements which death occasions, and enable them to bow before thy holy will. Accept our thanksgiving for the mercies of the past night and this morning. During this day we commend us to thee, and to the word of thy grace, which is able to build us up, and to give us an inheritance with them that are sanctified. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—1 JOHN IV.

WE bless thee, O thou high and holy One who inhabitest eternity, whose name is Holy, that though thou dwellest in the high and holy place, thou dwellest with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and the heart of the contrite ones. For this spirit of humility and contrition we earnestly pray. Open our eyes that we may discern the spirituality of thy law, that we may die to self-righteousness. Pour out upon us a spirit of grace and of supplication, that looking upon him whom we

have pierced, we may mourn as one mourneth for an only son, and be in bitterness as one that is in bitterness for his first-born. Give us that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of. While we mourn over our ingratitude and sinfulness, may thy Spirit enable us to apprehend thy mercy in Christ Jesus. We rejoice to know that in him thou art a just God, and yet a Saviour, and that it is consistent with thy holiness, and conducive to thy glory, freely to dispense that mercy which we need. Adored be thy name, that mercy and truth have met together, that righteousness and peace have kissed each other. We magnify and praise thee for the amazing manifestation of thy love in the gift of thine only-begotten Son. Herein is love, not that we loved thee, but that thou lovedst us, and sentest thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins. May we love thee, because thou first lovedst us. And as thou hast so loved us, may we, O Lord, love one another with a pure heart fervently. Blot out, as a thick cloud, our transgressions, and as a cloud, our sins. May thy grace, that bringeth salvation, teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. We pray for the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom throughout the world. May the time, even the set time, to favor Zion, soon arrive. In this neighborhood, in all parts of our native land, and throughout the habitable earth, may the joyful sound of the gospel be heard; and let it come not in word only, but in demonstration of the Spirit, and with power. We acknowledge with gratitude the goodness and mercy which have attended us during the past day and week. We commend our bodies and spirits to thy guardian care, during the hours of silence and of darkness. Prepare us, and all the household of faith, for the services and privileges of the approaching sabbath. In every tabernacle may there be the voice of joy and health; and on every dwelling-place of mount Zion, and on all her assemblies, may the Lord create a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; and upon all the glory let there be a defence. Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Forty-Ninth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CXXXVI.

ON this, another sabbath morning, would we desire, with feelings becoming our situation, to approach thy throne, O thou who art the God of heaven, and whose mercy endureth forever, earnestly imploring thy gracious presence, and the answer of our petitions, through him whom thou hearest always, and in whom thou art ever well pleased. We adore thee as that eternal, self-existent, and omnipotent Being who didst create the heavens and the earth, who didst set a tabernacle for the sun, and hast ordained the moon and the stars. Thou art continually doing wonders, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Thou didst remember thy covenant with Abraham thy servant, and in thy faithfulness didst bring his seed, when thou sawest their affliction, and hearest their cry because of their taskmasters, from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. In the greatness of thy excellency thou didst overthrow them that rose up against thee and thy chosen. In thy mercy thou didst lead forth the people which thou hadst redeemed. Thou didst guide them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation. Thou didst bring them in and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance; in the place, O Lord, which thou hadst made for thee to dwell in; in the sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands had established. And when in utter forgetfulness of the marvellous things which thou hadst done for them, their posterity sinned with their fathers, and committed iniquity, and did wickedly; and thou in thy righteous displeasure hadst delivered them over to their enemies, who carried them away captives to Babylon, thou didst think on them in their low estate, and turn again their captivity as streams in the south. In thy dealings with thy people of old, would we desire to behold thy dealings with us, who also have forsaken the Lord, and lightly esteemed the Rock of our salvation. Thou hast rescued us from a far more wretched and galling than Egyptian slavery; from the thralldom of sin, from the tyranny of Satan, from the power of the grave, and from the second death. All these wonders thou hast performed for us by the voluntary humiliation, sufferings, and crucifixion of thy only-begotten Son, the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person; and through the effectual application to our souls, of the redemption purchased by the Lord our righteousness, by the Spirit of holiness, one with thee, and the eternal Word, God over all, blessed forever. May we then, O Lord, be filled this morning with that peace which passeth understanding, when we think on thy preserving goodness; and especially when we dwell on the love in Jesus wherewith thou hast loved us, and in the exercise of our lost affections, purified by the Sanctifier, and set on things above, may we go

to thy house of prayer, engage in the solemnities of the sanctuary, and hear for eternity. Let thy presence be with thy servant who is to lead our devotions, and to instruct us in what thou requirest of us; so that he who soweth, and they who reap, may rejoice together. Graciously hear us, O Lord, in these our humble supplications, and when thou hearest, forgive and answer, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS CXXXVII. CXXXVIII.

LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. We give thee thanks for all the blessings of the past day, and that thou hast in abundant mercy allowed another sabbath to close around us in peace. We bless thee, O thou God of ordinances, that we have been permitted to appear in thy courts, to join with the congregation of saints in the songs of praise, and to hear instruction from that word, which is one of the chief instruments thy Spirit employs for making sinners wise unto salvation. We confess, O Lord, the wanderings of our hearts, and the coldness of our affections, even when engaged in the solemn duties of the sanctuary. We would feel, O thou who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, that our sins are too often increased and aggravated by the very means which we use to obtain the forgiveness of them. Revive thy work, O God, in the midst of the years, and in the midst of us; in the midst of the years, and in the midst of us, make known thy grace and thy truth; in deserved wrath, remember and exercise utterly undeserved mercy. But while we are in the undisturbed possession of the freely bestowed and precious privileges of the gospel, we would bear on our minds the state of thy visible church in the days of old; when the enemy entered the city of thy people's solemnities; when the heathen came into thine inheritance; when they defiled thy holy temple, and laid Jerusalem on heaps. And we would fear, O Lord, lest we by our lukewarmness, our indifference, and our sins, should provoke thee, though judgment is thy strange work, to remove our candlestick out of its place, and leave us in the deepest spiritual darkness. We would tremble, O Lord, lest thou shouldst withdraw forever the light of thy countenance from us, because we have dealt deceitfully in thy covenant, and have not known the day of our merciful visitation. O in thy loving-kindnesses, which have been of old forever, forbid that we should be compelled to hang our harps on the willows, and weep when we remember Zion. And whatever may be the trials by which thou art to prove the faith and patience of the saints, may we rest with assured confidence on thy promise, that thou wilt bring thy church in safety through all her difficulties and dangers, and compass her, and all who pray for her prosperity and peace, with songs of deliverance. To encourage us in our exertions for the good of Jerusalem, lead us, O Lord, with thy servant the sweet singer of Israel, to meditate on thy former doings in our be-

half; to look forward in faith to the period when the interests of the Redeemer shall be the interests of every one whom the Redeemer has exalted in the earth; and when in the well-grounded belief that we and our land are once more married to the Lord, the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of peace, quietness and assurance forever. Influenced by these desires, and animated by such hopes, we would commit ourselves to rest this night, praying that we may be satisfied early on another morning with thy mercy; and that all our days we may rejoice and be glad in thee. May the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—AMOS IX.

WE will both lay us down in peace and sleep, for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety. Ever blessed be thy name, O thou who keepest Israel, that we have in our experience again realized the humble expectations thus expressed in thy ever-watchful providence. Thou hast made the out-goings of the evening, as well as of the morning, to rejoice over us, and we are still before thee living monuments of thy preserving mercy. Not unto us, O God, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake. We adore thee for the high privilege of having thy holy word still in our hands! May thy Spirit write it on the table of our hearts! We would particularly at this time, desire to profit by the contemplation of thy dispensations to the people whom thou didst choose for thine own, that to them thou mightest reveal thy will, and manifest thy glory. We would trace thy sovereign goodness in their unspeakable blessings, and thy as sovereign justice in their dreadful punishment. Their sins separated between them and their God, and constrained thee, the Lord of hosts, weary with repenting, to touch their land and it melted, and all that dwelt therein mourned, and it rose up wholly like a flood, and was drowned as by the flood of Egypt. Thine eyes were upon the sinful kingdom; but thou didst not make a full end of the house of Jacob; for thou hadst reserved unto thyself a remnant, according to the election of grace. We know, O God, that it was because of unbelief that they fell, and that we can stand only by faith. Let us not then be high-minded, but fear. Enable us, O Lord, to behold thy goodness and thy severity; on them who fell, severity; but towards us goodness, if we continue in thy goodness, otherwise we also shall be cut off. Our hearts' desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they may be saved; and we praise thee, with whom all things are possible, that thou hast ordained that they shall not abide in unbelief, and that thou wilt graft them into the good olive-tree again; for this is thy covenant unto them when thou shalt take away their sins. In their behalf, O Lord, we plead thy own promise, that thou wilt arise and have mercy upon Zion,

and that the time to favor her, yea, the set time, will assuredly come. He that testifieth these things, saith, Surely I come quickly; even so come, Lord Jesus. And while we thus pray for the conversion and restoration of thine ancient people, we would earnestly supplicate restraining, strengthening, and confirming grace for ourselves. Fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power, that we may enter on the duties of a new day in the sustaining belief that we are under thy gracious protection, and that as thou hast delivered our souls from death, thou wilt also preserve our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. May thy Spirit inspire the resolution, and enable us individually to keep it, I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. Let thy mercy, O Lord, in Christ, be upon us, according as we desire to hope in thee. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—1 JOHN v.

O THOU God, whose we are, and whom we desire to serve, we adore thee that thou hast once more blessed us with an opportunity of assembling, as a family, in thy presence, for the purpose of singing thy praise, of reading thy word, and pouring out our souls before thee. Sanctify to our spiritual improvement and growth in grace, that portion of holy scripture which has now been brought under our consideration, and from it may we learn wisdom. May we see more clearly the nature, apprehend more distinctly the excellence, and partake more rejoicingly of the triumphs of that saving principle which overcometh the world, and will enable us to pass through it as strangers and pilgrims who look for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. It is to thee, O thou triune Jehovah, that we would render our thanksgivings for devising, executing, and completing the scheme of our redemption, and most earnestly do we pray that we may have the witness in ourselves that thou hast given unto us eternal life, and that none shall be able to pluck us out of thy hand. And being placed by thy grace in this blessed state, we would support our hearts with the belief that thou wilt hear us at all times from thy sanctuary, and strengthen us out of Zion. We know, O Lord, that all unrighteousness is sin; we feel our own exceeding sinfulness, and that we can entertain no hopes of pardon but through the sufferings and intercession of him who came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ, and on him therefore would we rely exclusively for wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Perfect in us, we beseech thee, O God of our salvation, the gracious work which thou hast begun, so that through the indwelling influences of thy Spirit, we may not wilfully and deliberately transgress that law which is holy, and just, and good. O may we have indeed been begotten of thee, and in thy might may we keep ourselves from evil, so that the wicked one may be effectually restrained from touching, tempting, and leading us to forget that we

are the Lord's. And as we are persuaded that the whole world lieth in wickedness, we would offer up our supplications for all whom thou hast not as yet visited with the day-spring from on high. Show them, O Lord, that thy Son has come to pay the penalty due by the guilty, and to make peace by the blood of his cross. O give them an understanding of their real state and prospects, that through the communications of thy grace they may know experimentally as the only Saviour, him that is true, in whom thou seest no iniquity in Jacob, and no perverseness in Israel. May they be satisfied of his all-sufficiency to redeem, from the conviction which thy Spirit alone can produce in them, that he is the true God, the Prince of life, and the Author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him. May the arms of thy protection be around us this night, and thus guarded we will fear no evil; and if we shall be permitted to open our eyes on the light of another morning, may our first thoughts be of thee, and of what thou hast done for us; and may it be the firm purpose of our souls to devote ourselves henceforth and forever to the service of him who is the health of our countenance, and our God. Hear us, O Lord, and answer us, for the Redeemer's sake.

TUESDAY MORNING.—OBADIAH.

BLESSED be the Lord God who hath guarded us during the unconscious hours of sleep, and raised us in health and safety to behold the cheering light of a new day! O grant that our sins may be scattered with the morning cloud; and that, like the risen sun, we may be prepared to run the race of piety and duty this day. We are not worthy, O our God, to render thee praise for thy goodness, far less to implore the protection and help which are needful to keep us safe, and good, and happy; but we come before thee, not in our own name; we come in the name, and plead the merits of him who died, the just for the unjust, and who ever liveth to make intercession for us. We believe that for his sake thou art willing, not merely to accept our persons and services, but to bestow upon us all the blessings we need, and greater blessings than we can ask. Vouchsafe us then, O God, we beseech thee, grace to lay now to heart, and to reduce this day to practice, the solemn lessons of thy holy word. Help us to act on the conviction, that thou art faithful in visiting for sin, not less than in rewarding righteousness; and that though the wicked exalt themselves as the eagle, and set their nest among the stars, yet thence wilt thou bring them down. O let us not hope, that because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore our sins shall not at last find us out. Instead of deceiving ourselves through the pride of our hearts, and supposing that our mountain standeth strong, may we cease from every refuge of lies, and from every arm of created might, and put our trust in thee, the only Rock of salvation. Instead of ranging ourselves with the ene-

mies of thy church and people, and rejoicing over them, and speaking proudly in the day of their distress, may we seek the peace of Jerusalem, and cast in our lot with those upon whom thou hast declared that there shall be deliverance and holiness. From everything that is hateful in thy sight, and injurious to our own or our brother's well-being, do thou defend us, O God; and whatsoever is honorable to thee, and good for us, do thou be pleased, even though we have asked it not, to bestow upon us. Prosper thine own cause, O Lord, throughout the world. Let them be confounded and turned back who hate Zion; let them be as the grass which withereth before it grow up! Thou didst remember Edom, the enemy of thy people Israel, and didst reward her as she had served them; covering her with shame, and cutting her off forever: so let all thine enemies perish, O Lord! But let them that love thee be as the sun when he goeth forth in his strength. Favorably regard that branch of the church of Christ to which we belong; the parish in which we dwell; and thy servants who minister in the same. And graciously remember and reward all among us who bring forth good fruit and are rich in faith and in charity; for their earthly things, giving them heavenly; for their temporal, eternal; for their corruptible, those which do not decay. All we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—2 JOHN.

BY thy goodness, O Lord, we find ourselves before the throne of thy grace, at the close of another day. To some of our fellow-creatures, the day has been a season of bodily anguish; to some a time of mental distress; to others a passage through affliction to death. But to us it has been a day of health; of soundness of mind; of personal comfort; of means of improvement; of unnumbered mercies. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits, who keepeth our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death. Alas! that our conduct has been so little accordant with thy mercies, O our God. Furnished by thy fatherly goodness with so many new reasons for loving and serving thee, we ought to have this day conquered some sin, and added to our acts of virtue; we ought to have grown in love to Christ, and in love to one another; in knowledge of thy truth, and in zeal for thy commandments: instead of which, we have been content, to live in great forgetfulness of the God of our mercies, and in grievous unconcern about thy cause and glory; and have only added to the load of guilt which days, and months, and years have been accumulating. O God, have mercy upon us, and take away our sins. Have respect, we pray thee, to the merits and advocacy of him who became incarnate, and suffered, and died for our redemption. For his sake, forgive our sins, and restore us to thy favor; a new heart do thou also give us;

and from all our idols do thou cleanse us. As thou condescendest to give us the name of thy children, be pleased also to confer the spirit of sons, even love to thee our Father, confidence in thy goodness, and jealousy of thine honor. As thou permittest us to call ourselves after Christ, be pleased also to shed upon our souls a spirit of devotedness to his cause, a holy zeal for his glory, and a double portion of his mind and temper. As thou commandest us to love each other, and all our Christian brethren in the truth, be pleased also to enable us to exercise towards all men that charity which rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; and which regardeth nothing as good for a brother, which is not good for his soul. And these great and precious blessings, do thou mercifully grant us now, even now, O our God; so that though we deserve never more to rise from the beds whither we now go, we may yet both lay us down in peace, and awake in safety, thy hand sustaining us. For all who are dear to us, as for ourselves, we entreat thy blessings. Let thy covering wings be over us all; thy protecting arms around us all. And grant, that at the last, when the shadows of the long night shall have fallen on our path, we may dwell together in that blessed land where there is no darkness, and no sin, neither any more death. And now may grace be with us, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—JONAH I. II.

WE worship and praise thee, O Lord God, as the author of all our mercies. Though we are altogether unworthy of thy regard, thou hast ever displayed, thou still displayest, the most benevolent concern for our well-being. From unbeginning eternity thy delights were with the sons of men; and in the fulness of time thou didst send forth thy well-beloved Son to die for us men, and for our salvation. Thou hast built a fair world for us to dwell in. Thou hast bestowed upon us bodies curiously made, and souls wondrously endowed. Thou hast caused our cup to run over with temporal mercies. And so good and gracious art thou, that even the adversities which mingle in our lot, are all ordered, regulated, and overruled through thy mercy, so as to advance our welfare, to make us sit loose to a sinful world, and to shut us up to thyself, the only rest and portion of the immortal soul. We desire to esteem it a new token of thy goodness, O God, that we have been all spared to begin another day in peace. Our sleep might have been death; our bed might have been in hell; fire might have consumed our dwelling; wicked men might have spoiled our goods. But thou hast been our shade on our right hand, and the voice of health and rejoicing is still heard under our roof. O grant that our conduct before thee this day, may be in some good degree answerable to

thine invariable conduct towards us. Let not a day begin in professions of gratitude, and end in acts of heartless forgetfulness and rebellion. May the Holy Spirit dwell in each of our hearts to defend us against such an issue. May he strengthen us to watch against evil; to be diligent and conscientious in our several callings; careful of our time; thankful for our mercies; gentle and considerate in our mutual intercourse; patient under our crosses and vexations. Should bad example allure us, may he enable us to resist its influence. Should scenes of temptation invite us, may he enable us to turn from them and pass away. Should the black shadows of adversity fall on our path, may he enable us to pierce the cloud with the eye of faith, and to bear the rod, and him who sends it. Throughout the day, may we have grace to secure, at whatever sacrifice of personal feeling, and at whatever risk of ridicule, the sweet testimony of a good conscience; and being thus upheld, and guided, may we find ourselves, at its close, a stage nearer to the heavenly rest, as well as to the end of this transitory life. Dwell with us as a household, making our habitation a Bethel where thou art; a Bethany, where the peace of Christ abides, as well in the day of affliction as in the season of joy. Bless all who are dear to us; whether near or at a distance; whether in this or in other lands; whether on the land or on the sea; graciously answer our prayers for their well-being, and their prayers for ours, O God of our fathers! Bless and protect our rulers. Bless all thy faithful ministers, and multiply their number. Be the guide of inexperienced youth; the staff of declining age; heal the sick; convert the unconverted; build up thy saints in their most holy faith; and let the ends of the earth soon see thy salvation. Hear, O God, in heaven thy dwelling-place, these our petitions; and when thou hearest, forgive, accept, sanctify, and save us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—3 JOHN.

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord God, for encouraging us to pray to thee, and to expect to be heard. Thou hast revealed thyself as seated on a throne of grace. Thou hast appointed a Mediator who, by his obedience and sufferings in the room of sinners, has made it possible for thee, the just and holy God, to receive and bless the sinner. Thou hast set him at thy right hand to present our prayers, and intercede for us. Thou hast sent down many a precious promise, that we may send it up again in prayer. And for our further encouragement, thou hast recorded the experience of a cloud of witnesses who have found in prayer a key to unlock the treasury of thy grace. Emboldened by these considerations, we, thine unworthy servants, again fall down before thee, and prefer our prayers and praises at thy throne. Another day of our appointed time on earth has passed away, and in passing has left us greater debtors than be-

fore to thy mercy, greater offenders than before against thy holy laws. We acknowledge thy continued goodness, O God; we confess and lament the continuance of our ingratitude; we beseech thee, for the sake of our Redeemer, to take away our sins, and impress upon our hearts a sense of thy mercy. While we grieve over our sins and shortcomings, may we discover their origin in that root of bitterness, an evil and apostate heart; and may a growing sense of our natural sinfulness, and of the consequent impurity of our best acts, lead us to discard all self-dependence; to rest our hope of acceptance solely on the righteousness of Jesus Christ; and to look up constantly for thy help amid the duties and temptations of this mortal life. Follow with thy blessing, O God, the reading of thy holy word at this time; and enable us to shun the temper which it condemns, as well as to exemplify the graces which it stamps with thine approval. Deliver thy church from all such as love to have the pre-eminence, and seek their own, not the things that are Christ's; and multiply among us and everywhere, those who walk in the truth, who love Christ and his ministers, and who have no greater joy than in promoting, according to their ability, the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. Peace be on all such, and on the whole household of God! And help us, now before thee, to follow and imitate, not them that do evil, but them that do good, so that we too may have a good report of all men, and of the truth itself, and, above all, enjoy thine approbation, O our God! And now we desire again, to commend to thee all who are dear to us. Vouchsafe to them the same blessings which we ask for ourselves; and grant that, however far and long separated on earth, we may all be ever tending to the same blessed point, and meet at last in the same happy and eternal home. Preserve us through the dark watches of the night. And on the morning of a new day, may we arise with renewed strength, and quickened piety, to love and serve thee better than we have hitherto done. And all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—JONAH III. IV.

O MOST holy and most merciful Lord God! we would come to thee this morning, to offer up to thee our united prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, thy well-beloved Son, through whom alone thou wilt hear and answer us. O let thy Spirit help our infirmity in prayer. Humble us under a deep sense of our sinfulness in thy sight. Alas! we do not know sufficiently the plagues of our own hearts; what amount of corruption, unbelief, pride, and unthankfulness, there is in every one of us. Lord, reveal us to ourselves, that we may loathe ourselves in our sight, and come to thee for pardon, and purification, and increase of all grace. How wonderful, O God, are thy compassions to guilty men! Thou warnest sinners to flee from the wrath

to come; and when they repent and turn to thee, thou receivest them graciously, and lovest them freely, and savest them from everlasting destruction, through the death and mediation of thy dear Son. O come and save us for thy mercies' sake. O how much dost thou magnify thy forbearance and thy grace towards thy unworthy servants. Thou chastenest them for their sins, but thou dost not utterly cast them off. May we, O most gracious God, be kept from offending thee. Do thou thyself keep us; for we dare not trust in our own wisdom, or strength, or goodness. Make thy grace sufficient for us, and perfect thy strength in our weakness. And as we must stand indebted to thy mercy every day, O enable us readily to extend mercy to others who offend us, and to be glad when we see others sharers in thy mercy with us. Let thy precious word of salvation, O Lord, speedily be sent to all the heathen people of the world; and let thy Almighty Spirit make it as a fire, and as a hammer, to break their rocky hearts in pieces, bringing thus the people under thee, and making them believe and repent unto salvation, to the glory of thy name, and to the praise of our Lord Jesus Christ. And do thou grant unto all thy servants whom thou hast called into the ministry of thy word, whether at home or abroad, that with all boldness, faithfulness, and patience, they may declare thy truth; and open thou the hearts of sinners, to receive with meekness the ingrafted word of life, which is able to save their souls: so that all the kingdoms of the world may soon become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ. We would now thank thee, O Lord, for having spared us through the darkness of the night, and for having called us, as at this moment, to look again towards thy holy temple in heaven. Fill us with a holy fear of thee. Help us this day to live to thy glory, amidst all the temptations and trials which may await us. Be thou surety to us for good; blessing each one of us according to our need, and according to thy manifold mercies, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—JUDE.

O GOD, we would now lay ourselves down at thy footstool, and, through the great Mediator that sits at thy right hand, would adore thee. Thou art great, and thy greatness is unsearchable to all but thyself, and thy Son, and Holy Spirit. O teach us to think of, and feel aright thy holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Make us sensible of the glory and majesty of thy kingdom; and of the amazing love which thou hast shown to guilty men, in sending thine own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, to redeem them from the dreadful curse of thy law, and to raise them to the favor, the likeness, and the enjoyment of thee through all eternity. O may it please thee by thy Holy Spirit to open our eyes, and to turn us from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto thee. O may he create in us the faith of thine elect, that we with our whole hearts may em-

brace thy Son as our Saviour, and be by him delivered from all the most grievous evils of our sad apostasy from thee. May he lead us forth more and more from a world that lieth in wickedness, and from our own deceitful carnal hearts. Let his love constrain us to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us, and who rose again. Let us not be left to turn thy grace into licentiousness, nor to indulge in that sin from which Christ came to save his people. Fill us with a perpetual sense of thy holy indignation against all sin; and O let those who name the name of Christ, be by thee led to depart from all iniquity. Teach us in our very hearts, and by our tongues and lives, to reverence all thine ordinances: so that instead of speaking evil of dignities, we may bless thee for them, praying for kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Pardon, gracious God, the sins of which any of us have been guilty this day. We confess we have offended in many things, and in all have come short of thy glory. Accept of our thanks for thy manifold mercies; and keep us safely through the night, that whether we wake or sleep we may be ever with thee. These our prayers we present to thee in the name of thy beloved Son. For his sake, accept, and answer us, O God; and to thee be all glory, now and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—MICAH I. II.

OUR Father which art in heaven, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bend thine ear, this morning, to hear our prayers. O let this word of thine, which we have been reading, sink deep into all of our hearts. Inspire us with a holy fear of thy righteous judgments, that we may not commit sin against thee. O let us not forget that thy holy eye is continually upon us, that thou seest the thoughts of our hearts, and ponderest the paths of our feet. Deliver us, O Lord, from an unbelieving and ungodly heart, ever inclining us to those sins which have drowned others in destruction and perdition. O never suffer us to trust in ourselves, or in an arm of flesh. Never let us listen with distrust to any word of thine, for we need all thy words; they are all given by inspiration of thee, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. And, gracious God, may we never be left by thee to think or act in such a manner as should prevail with our deceitful hearts to make them rise up against the messages of thy servants to us, and provoke thy good Spirit to depart. O may we rather seek salvation and thy glory than to be pleased and gratified after the desire of the flesh and of the mind. We beseech thee to cause thy word to dwell in us richly, by making us partakers of the abundant grace of thy Spirit, and by inclining to meditate on thy statutes day and night. May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, and may we be rooted and grounded in love to thee who hast first loved us; and if

any of us are still strangers to thy saving grace in the heart, O be pleased to come in thy rich grace to quicken and enlighten us, that we all may be to the praise of the glory of thy grace, accepted in the Beloved, and may walk in newness of life. O Lord, have mercy on us all, and bless us all, that so we having thee dwelling in the midst of us, may be safe from fear of evil, and may serve thee in love and holy fear all the days of our lives. Wash us in the blood of thy Son; put on us the garment of his salvation, animate us with his Spirit, lead us on after his example, enable us to be faithful to him; and when our service on earth is over, O may we find ourselves welcomed by him into that blessed world where all thy people are ever with thee, freed from all corruptions, and temptations, and sufferings, and where they serve thee with unspeakable joy, day and night, in thy temple. Grant this, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be all glory, and dominion. world without end. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—REVELATION I.

How shall we, O Lord, who are sinful dust and ashes, appear before thee, who art so glorious in holiness, that if we could but see thee we should abhor ourselves. What blindness is this that sin has brought upon the eyes of our minds? What amazing ease and indifference of spirit is this which we feel when we kneel before thee, and take upon us to speak to thee. O God, do thou, in thy wonderful grace and power, remove our guilt, by leading us in repentance and faith to wash in Christ's blood. Does it not cleanse from all sin? O send thy quickening Spirit into our hearts, that we may live before thee. May he bring Christ the life into our souls. May he open the eyes of our minds to see the matchless glory of thy only-begotten Son, incarnate for our sakes, so that the power of that sight may humble us to the very dust, and we be made to feel the sweetness of his reviving word as it enters our ears and our hearts. O, for the glory of thine own name, let us be brought out of the death in trespasses and sins, to walk with Christ in newness of life. May we never be left any more to doubt his power and willingness to save us from sin, and death, and hell. We would cleave to him who is the resurrection and the life, that we may never die, and that we may find, when we leave this world, that he forsakes us not, but walks with us through the dark valley, and guides us past the shut gates of hell to his mansions of glory. And while he keeps us in this world, O may we be enabled rightly to understand and improve by his ministers, and ordinances, and word. Let us ever seek and ever find him in all these. May we never be absent from them. May we never find him absent, nor be guilty of provoking him to hide himself from our view. Clothe thy priests, O Lord, with salvation, that all thy saints may shout aloud for joy. Purify, defend,

and bless thy church, and let the kingdom of thy dear Son be established in all the nations of the world. Let antichrist be speedily consumed by the breath of Christ's own mouth; by the knowledge and power of that divine word which he speaks, but which his enemies hate, despise, and forbid to be known. O arise and plead thine own cause, and let thy Spirit and thy providence teach thy servants to read, understand, and keep the sayings that are written in this book. Let the heathen people fear thy name, and let all kings see thy glory. To thee, O most blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to him thy well-beloved Son our Saviour, and to the Holy Ghost our enlightener, sanctifier, and comforter, be glory, dominion, and praise in earth among men, as in heaven among angels and spirits of the just made perfect. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—MICAH V. VI.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the great source of all light and holy influence. We bless thee that thou hast in thy holy word shown us what is good, truly good for our fallen condition. We thank thee that thou hast there made known to us a Saviour who has paid the debt incurred by all who shall believe in his name, who has satisfied thy justice, and through whom thou dost now manifest thyself to us as a reconciled God. Apply by thy Holy Spirit thine own most precious gift. In vain it is held forth to us, unless thou dost give the disposition to receive it. Make us willing to submit ourselves to the proposals of thy mercy and grace. Let us know Christ, not only as a Saviour, but as our Saviour. Let us not only be persuaded by the authority of thy word, that he is able and willing to save unto the uttermost; but let us be assured, that he is able and willing to save us. And being justified freely by thy grace, may we be sanctified fully by thy Spirit. Having been shown the good way of admission to thy favor, O grant, that what brings peace, may bring purity to our souls. Let a sense of our unspeakable obligation be expressed by doing what thou the Lord our God dost require of us. Whilst we bring all our doings, as well as all our sins, to the foot of the cross, and look for acceptance only through his accepted sacrifice, who was there wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, may we take thy law as a rule of life, and may we be humbled and quickened by the knowledge that it is exceeding broad. May all our intercourse and transactions with others this day, be regulated by the scripture maxims of justice, integrity, and truth. Let a spirit of forbearance and forgiveness manifest itself, under whatever provocation we may suffer; even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven us. Teach us to bear each other's burdens, and so to fulfil the law of Christ. And thus by thy grace let us seek to prove, by an evidence which none can gainsay nor resist, that by faith we do not make void but establish the law. Especially, do

thou dispose and enable us, we beseech thee, to walk humbly with our God. May a sense of sin; a feeling of dependence; and the weight of those obligations of gratitude under which thou hast placed us, press us down, and keep us lowly; so that we may know in our experience, that he who walketh humbly, walketh surely. And, when we remember that thou art with us; that it is our honor and our privilege to walk with thee, O let the solemn but animating thought, stimulate us to duty, sustain us under temptation, and be a sweet solace in the hour of tribulation and sorrow. May the knowledge of thy revealed will, with which we are favored and comforted, be extended to the whole family of man. Let all whom we should bear upon our spirits before thee, receive the blessings we desire and supplicate for ourselves; and all that we would ask, is for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—REVELATION II.

THOU God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we rejoice to know, that it hath pleased thee, that in him should all fulness dwell. We bless thee, that while he is raised to universal dominion, he exercises a special superintendence and control over the affairs of his spiritual kingdom. Thou exalted Saviour, who art head over all things to thy church, having all the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit dwelling in thee, and power to dispense them in their utmost perfection and variety, unto thee would we desire to lift up our souls. Give us, we pray thee, the spirit of repentance. Enable us to review with deep humility, the sins and defections with which we stand chargeable before thee; and realizing thy presence, whose eyes are as a flame of fire, let us be humbled when we reflect, that if our own hearts condemn us, thou art greater than our hearts and knowest all things. Let the love of God, we beseech thee, be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us, and let the existence of that divine principle be manifested by its increasing prevalence and power. Keep us from yielding to the causes of fainting and weariness in the Christian life to which we are liable; nor ever suffer us to subject ourselves to the rebuke incurred, by departing from our first love. Bless us with the purity of heart which shall fit us to see God; and from the fountain thus made pure, may there ever flow the streams of a new and holy obedience. Implant and perfect within us all the graces of the spiritual life, and then wilt thou look with divine complacency upon thine own work in our souls. May we be distinguished for our labor and patience; for that poverty of spirit which maketh truly rich; for a firm adherence to our Christian profession, whatever dangers or persecutions may arise; for our charity, and service, and faith. Amid the struggles and the warfare in which we are engaged, when the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, when Satan tempts, when the world allures, God

of our salvation, give us to look unto Jesus with a simple faith, who for our sakes hath overcome, and beckons us to follow his footsteps, and calls us to share the fruits of his victory. Thou God of our lives, we give thee thanks for thy sustaining providence, exercised towards us during the past day, and the week that is now brought to a close. We would betake ourselves, with all the sins which memory records and conscience condemns, with the sins of ignorance and those which we have forgotten; we would bring them all to the purifying fountain which thou hast opened, and to which thou invitest us to apply. O cleanse us from all our pollutions. Let ours be the peace that arises, not from sins being forgotten, but from its being forgiven and washed away. Watch over us during the helpless hours of repose; and should we arise to another sabbath of the Son of man, fit us, and all thy servants and people, for its solemn duties, that its services may promote in us and in them the qualities that are pleasing in thy sight, and that prepare for the rest of heaven, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Fiftieth Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALM CXXXIX.

INSPIRE us, O Lord, with reverence and godly fear when we would presume to approach the majesty of heaven. If at all times thou God seest us, and if our inmost thoughts are at all times open to the inspection of thine eye, let us remember that it becometh us more especially to realize thy spiritual presence, when we come before thee as worshippers, and solicit thy notice in the language of prayer. Let the impressive contemplation of thy character, as the all-seeing and all-present God, brought before our minds in the portion of thy word which we have been reading together, be blessed by thee for our conviction and comfort. Till thou dost thyself, by thy Holy Spirit, enable us justly to appreciate and rightly to feel this solemn truth, it will produce no salutary effect; we will still seek to hide ourselves from thy presence; the truth concerning thee will fill with sullen dislike, not with holy fear; it will inspire terror, but will not awaken confidence. Give us, therefore, we pray thee, to know thee as our reconciled Father in Christ Jesus the Son of thy love. May ours be the feelings towards thee of the children of thine own redeemed and adopted family. May we rejoice in the continual and conscious presence of our Father in heaven. Remembering that thou understandest our thoughts afar off, let us be watchful over the spirit of our minds. Knowing that thou possessest our reins, may

we be on our guard against all dissimulation, and have grace to serve thee in sincerity and truth; and may we be filled with deep self-abasement when we think that thou settest our iniquity before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. When temptation assails, when corruption struggles for the mastery, let us maintain the conflict as seeing thee who art invisible. To the voice of sinful allurements may our reply ever be, Shall we do this great evil and sin against God? May we walk with thee, receiving the fulfilment of the promise, that we shall know, if we follow on to know the Lord. And as we advance in our pilgrimage, may we find in the presence of a covenant God a support under every trial, and a consolation in the season of bereavement and affliction. And especially, in the duties of this thine own day, the light of which thou hast made to cheer our dwelling, may we realize thy presence in the sanctuary. May the blessed Saviour preside by the power of his Spirit over the ordinances he has appointed. May he lead his people, by the ministry of his commissioned servants, among the green pastures and the still waters, by which their spiritual nature shall be refreshed and matured. May we and all our fellow-worshippers be impressed with the solemn thought, that thou dost mark the frame of mind, as well as the outward deportment, of every one who approaches thy courts. And whether in the exercises of devotion, or in listening to the truths of thy word, give us grace to worship thee in spirit and in truth, and thus to worship thee with acceptance through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father who art in heaven, &c.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS CXL. CXLI. CXLII.

GREAT and marvellous are all thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are all thy ways, thou King of saints. Who would not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy? O thou who desirest truth in the inward parts, do thou purify our souls from every pollution. Keep us not only from an open violation of thy righteous commands, but incline not our hearts to any evil thing. Let all old things be made to pass away, and all things as to the views, aims, desires, and actings of our minds, to become new; and from the fountain of a heart, purified by thy grace, may there flow forth the streams of a holy obedience. Inspire us with that hope which is an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast; and through whatever course of discipline thou mayest be pleased to conduct us, however painful to the flesh, or how great soever the exercise of self-denial it may involve, we would desire to submit ourselves in a humble and child-like spirit, in the blessed expectation that thou wilt make it the means of fitting us for the inheritance of the saints in light. Encourage us to maintain the conflict with sin, whether within or around us. Let us remember that although the warfare may be sharp the victory is sure: and as thou art the

source of our strength in fighting the good fight of faith, let us be disposed to ascribe to thee the glory of our success. Thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For the purpose of moulding our souls into an entire conformity to thy blessed will, O thou who alone canst render the ordinances of thine appointment subservient to the great purposes of spiritual edification, give efficacy to the word of thy grace spoken to us this day. May thy word be mighty and powerful in our case and in that of our fellow-worshippers, in promoting all the gracious designs for which it has been proclaimed from heaven. Let not our sins and manifold provocations; let not the pollution which taints our holy duties, obstruct the blessed influence which, by the power of thy Spirit, it is fitted to exert. May its impression be rendered abiding and practical; nor suffer us to be like the man who, beholding his natural face in a glass, goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But grant that the truth as it is in Jesus may be so continually present to the eye of our faith, that it may transform us into his image, from one degree of glory to another, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Exercise thy guardian care over us through the silent watches of the night. If it is thy will that we should arise to the life and blessings of a new day, when we awake may we be still with thee. May the duties of the sabbath exert a salutary and sanctifying influence upon our minds during all the intercourse of the week; and enable us to prove the difference that there is between those who live unto God, and those who live unto themselves. And unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, be all the glory, now and for evermore. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—MICAH VII.

O GOD, we desire to approach the footstool of thy throne with the deepest humility, because we know that in thy sight we are naturally polluted and vile. We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away. Like a deceitful bow we have all turned aside, so that there is none righteous, no not one; we have become all unprofitable. We desire, O our God, to consider attentively the great degeneracy of our nature, that we may see what abundant cause there is for our being humbled in thy sight. Thou hast shown us, in what thou hast recorded of the history of thy church, how desperately wicked men may become amidst the greatest outward advantages. In the deeds of the ungodly, by whom we are surrounded, we fully recognize the corruption of our common nature, and we are satisfied from our own experience that the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. We are all ready to despise the kindest warnings; to reject the most salutary counsels; to spurn from us the richest offers of mercy. O Lord, do

thou in thy goodness enable us to deplore this our fallen and helpless state. Lead us to perceive its misery and wretchedness, and leave us not to despair of relief, but guide us to him who is mighty to save, even to him who is both able and willing to deliver. We rejoice that thy hand has been upon the man of thy right hand, upon the Son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself. Look upon us, therefore, in the face of thine Anointed, and for his sake, do thou blot out all our iniquities. Wash us in his blood; and though our sins be red like scarlet, and like crimson, they shall be white as the snow, and white as wool. Cleanse us from all our sins, and thus prepare us for that blessed place into which nothing can enter that defileth, or worketh abomination, or maketh a lie. These things we take all encouragement to ask, for verily there is no God like unto thee, who pardoneth iniquity, and who passeth by the transgression of the remnant of thine heritage. Hear the voice of our entreaty, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom with thee the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be everlasting praise. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—REVELATION III.

O LORD our God, we draw near unto thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have access by one Spirit unto thee the Father. We rejoice to contemplate him in the ever-blessed characters in which he has revealed himself in that portion of thine own word we have now read, wherein he is made known to us as the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God. We have the assurance that in all respects he bore witness to the truth, while on earth, by which he earned the testimony that he was faithful to him who appointed him even as Moses was faithful in all his house. He kept no part of God's counsel back, for he delighted ever to make known his will; he always rejoiced to make known the message with which he was fraught for the salvation of perishing sinners. O Lord, enable us, attentively, to consider the heavenly message with which we have thus been favored. May the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom, so that it may ever be a light unto our feet, and a lamp unto our path. We rejoice, O our Saviour, to look to thee as still continuing to give direction by thy word, and thy Spirit, in the church which thou hast planted and watered with thine own blood. Thou art still a witness, thou art still a leader, and a commander to the people; for thou hast the keys of David, and shuttest, and no man openeth, and openest, and no man shutteth. O Lord, do thou in thine abundant mercy, exercise thy prerogative in our behalf, and open the door of our hearts, that thy word may have free entrance, so that we may glorify thee in our walk and conversation. May it be rendered effectual through the Spirit in casting down every imagination; every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and in bringing into cap

tivity every thought to the obedience of thee our Lord and Saviour. O that we were brought into this state of conformity to the divine will, for then would Christ come in and sup with us; then would our fellowship be with the Father, and with the Son, and with the Holy Ghost. O that we had more of longing desire after such communion; but, alas, our affections are too much set on earthly things! We have too much regard for the world and its polluting pleasures; and thus, like the church of Laodicea, we are lukewarm, being neither cold nor hot. May we instantly take warning respecting the danger of continuing in such a state, and forthwith seek to love thee with all our soul, and with all our heart, and with all our might. Constrain us, by thy great power, to give ourselves wholly to thy service; and may we always be ready to declare, even in the most trying circumstances in which we may be placed, that we are for thee, and not for another. Hear, O our God, these our humble petitions. Return to them an answer in peace, and all that we ask is in the name of our once crucified, but now highly exalted Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—HABAKKUK I.

WE adore thee, O God, for what thou art in thyself, and for what thou art to the children of men. Thou art glorious in holiness; thou art fearful in praises; thou art ever doing wonders. The greatness of thine acts in providence and grace, illustrate the excellence of thy wisdom, and thy power, and thy goodness. They show that thou art unsearchable in thy ways, and that thy judgments are past finding out. As King over all, thou doest whatsoever seemeth good unto thee in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. Thou alone art Governor among the nations, and in the exercise of thy sovereignty thou buildest up and thou pullest down; thou carriest away as with an overwhelming flood, and again thou bringest back, so as to cause the voice of joy and gladness to be heard in the land. All things are in thine hand, and thou doest with them according to thy pleasure; for as may best serve the great purposes of thy government, thou killest, and thou makest alive; thou bringest down to the grave, and thou bringest up again; thou makest poor, and thou makest rich; thou raisest up the poor out of the dust, and liftest up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory. We gladly acknowledge thy right to do these things, O Lord; for the pillars of the earth are thine, and thou hast set the world upon them. O Lord, do thou help us to recognize continually thy sovereignty, that we may pay more attention to the evidences that are afforded in the distresses thou bringest on the kingdoms of the earth, of thy displeasure at sin. Incline us fully to obey the invitation which bids us come and behold what desolations the Lord hath brought upon

the earth. Of old thou didst in thy wrath destroy the world with a flood, and the cities of the plain with a deluge of fire. Thou hast swept from the face of the earth many of its once mightiest monarchies; for when the cup of their iniquity was full, thou didst make them drink, in punishment of their desperate wickedness, the wine of astonishment. Verily thou art a jealous God, and wilt assuredly take vengeance on all thine adversaries. Who can stand before the indignation of the Lord? who can abide the fierceness of his anger? Heavenly Father, enable us to seek freedom from all sin; for sin is the cause of all the calamities to which as individuals, or as a nation, we are exposed. Help us to take refuge in the Son of thy love, who, through his atoning sacrifice, has become to all who have faith in his righteousness, as an hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, and as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Thither may thy Holy Spirit induce us to flee, for it is only in the blood of the Redeemer that safety is to be found. O God, listen to these our supplications. And now unto thee the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be everlasting praise, world without end. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—REVELATION IV. V.

WHEN we appear before thee, O God, at the footstool of thy throne, and thus place ourselves more immediately in thy holy presence, may we remember that we are but dust and ashes; may we remember that we are of unclean lips; that we dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, and are altogether unworthy of the privilege of addressing ourselves to thee in prayer and supplications. O that we were impressed by a large portion of that reverence and humility with which the seraphim, who minister in the upper sanctuary, approach thy throne, when they cover their faces with their wings, and cry one to another, saying, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory. Blessed be thy great name, that we are permitted with them to draw near, and to ascribe blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever. It is because thou hast sent redemption to thy folk; it is because thou hast taken them out of the deep pit and the miry clay; it is because thou hast put a new song into their mouth, even the song of salvation, that they enjoy the unspeakable privilege of celebrating thy praises, and the praises of him who gave himself a ransom for their souls. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel that he hath visited and redeemed his people; that he hath raised up an horn of salvation for them in the house of his servant David. Lord, help us by the power of thy Holy Spirit to make this wonderful deliverance the unending theme of our admiring gratitude and praise, so that we may resemble those blessed spirits in the heavenly world, whose constant employment it is to ac-

knowledge thee and thy Son for the accomplished redemption. All thy works praise thee, but thou hast magnified thy name above all thy works, in the wonderful means thou hast devised for delivering thy chosen ones from going down to the pit, and for restoring them to the enjoyments of Immanuel's land. In the great scheme of salvation, all thy perfections are glorified, for mercy and truth have met together, and righteousness and peace have kissed each other, The demands of thy holy law have all been answered in the perfect obedience and atoning death of thy dear Son, so that thou art just whilst justifying him who believeth in Jesus. O God, may we all be among those who thus believe to the saving of the soul. In seeking for pardon and acceptance, may we plead nothing except the merits of the Saviour's all-prevailing sacrifice. His blood cleanseth from all sin, and his blood alone can accomplish this. We, therefore, desire to have our sole dependence on it for justification in thy sight. Forbid that any of us should be found trusting to his own righteousness, for by the deeds of the law no flesh can be justified. And may we, in receiving Christ, walk worthy of him, and give no occasion to any one to speak evil of our profession. O Lord, guide us by thy Spirit, for it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps. Be our God and our Guide even unto death, and then our exceeding great reward; and all that we ask is in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—HABAKKUK II.

MOST gracious and most merciful God, we, who are but dust and ashes before thee, would this morning draw near to thy throne of grace, and would bless and magnify thy name for all the goodness which thou makest to pass before us. We have laid ourselves down and slept, we have awaked, for thou the Lord hast sustained us. We would be thankful that, during the past night, while we were unconscious of what was passing around us, no evil has befallen us, and no plague has come near our dwelling. And now that we have opened our eyes to the light of another day, may we be enabled to begin the duties of this day with God, and be pleased to lift on us the light of thy countenance. O thou who art the refuge and dwelling-place of thy people in all generations; O thou who art not unmindful of the dwellings of Jacob, be the God of this family; and whatever others do, may we be enabled to serve thee the Lord. We acknowledge the power which the things of this world maintain over us; we confess the proneness of our hearts to evil; the vain thoughts that pass through our minds, and the tendency that we feel to permit the cares and perplexities of life to choke the seed of the word that may be sown in our hearts; and we now earnestly pray that our sins may be washed away in the blood of Christ, and pour out upon us thy Spirit, that we may obtain strength to overcome the

corruptions of our hearts, and our tendency to all that is sinful. Help us to discharge all our relative duties as they are laid down in thy holy word; and may we have the grace that we need to enable us to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. As we go forth this day to our ordinary occupations, may we carry along with us the principles of the gospel, and may our conduct be regulated by that wisdom which cometh down from above. Preserve us through all our duties from violating any of thy holy commandments, and from committing any gross sin. May we be sober and temperate, just and honest. May we be desirous to cultivate truth and sincerity, so that we may not be found to change, even though we must speak to our own disadvantage. O that thy blessing may accompany the portion of thy word which has now been read, and may our souls profit by those lessons which the bible teaches. May we be convinced that the ways of sin lead to destruction, and that everlasting misery and ruin are the certain portion of the wicked, and of them that know not God. Teach us to live separate from the world, while we take part in its business and pursuits; and may we be enabled to watch over ourselves with a godly jealousy. Sanctify to us any crosses, disappointments, and afflictions, with which we may be visited, and preserve us from falling into the sin of murmuring and repining at thy holy providence. We pray for the sick and the distressed, the sorrowful and the dying. Comfort their souls, be a present help in their trouble, and prepare the dying for their awful change. Build up thy church in the midst of us, and accompany the preaching of the gospel with an abundant blessing. Pardon the sins of this approach unto thee; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—REVELATION VI.

WE, O God, fall down before thee, who art the former of our bodies, the preserver of our lives, and our constant and unwearied benefactor. To thee we offer the tribute of our thanksgiving and praise for the mercy and loving-kindness which we have this day experienced, and for all the proofs of thy goodness which we have received. Thou hast bestowed the health and strength which were necessary for going through our daily occupations. Thou hast fed us with the food which was convenient for us. Thou hast preserved us from dangers which were ready to overwhelm us. Thou hast enabled us to resist temptations which the corruptions of our hearts rendered powerful; and now would we rejoice in thee the Lord, and unite together in blessing thy name for all our benefits. We appear before thee with shame and confusion of face when we remember the sins of which we have this day been guilty before thee, who art infinitely holy. How many sinful thoughts have passed through our minds since the morning light! How frequently have we spoken unadvisedly with our lips! and we have now to lament in thy pres-

ence that our conversation this day has not been with grace seasoned with salt. How many sinful actions have we this day committed, and how many duties have we neglected to perform! We have been transgressing thy holy law, while we were unconscious of the transgression; and many of our sins have passed away without a moment's observation. O enter not into judgment with us; visit us not with the punishment which we deserve. We pray that thou mayest now lead us to that fountain which is opened in the house of David for sin and for uncleanness. Say to each one of us, Thy sins be forgiven thee. We would look to Christ, and with the eye of our faith; and may we practically understand that he is the only way of access to thee our God; that he is the only channel of communication between heaven and earth, and that through him alone all temporal and spiritual blessings flow to the children of men. Lead us, holy Father, to the Lord Jesus Christ, and may we find that in him is our peace. We would desire at this time to express our gratitude and thankfulness to thee, that thou, O God, hast called us from our various employments to enjoy a period of rest. O that we may be made duly sensible of the wise arrangements of thy gracious providence, which has appointed a time of rest to succeed that of labor, and to afford us an opportunity for refreshing and invigorating our bodies. Give us this night the rest and refreshment which thou hast promised to thy chosen. Enable us to repose on Christ as our only rest; and when we lay down our heads on our pillows, may our sleep be sweet. We look to thee for the protection that we need through the silent watches of this night; and may we rise in the morning in thy fear. Let those who are dear to us, wherever they are, be the objects of thy special protection. Bring them into thy sheepfold, and make them thine own. We pray for the church of Christ, strengthen her stakes, and lengthen her cords. May the preaching of the gospel receive the blessing from on high, and do thou prosper thy work in the midst of us. May thy blessing rest upon this house. Be our God, our guide, and our exceeding great reward. Forgive our sins; and all that we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—HABAKKUK III.

HOLY and ever-blessed God, we humble ourselves, this morning, at the footstool of thy throne, and acknowledge thy great condescension in permitting us to approach thy holy presence. We would desire, at this time, to think of all thy mighty works, and of all the wonders which thou hast wrought for thy people's deliverance. Thou causedst thy name to be feared; thou broughtest terror upon the nations, and madest thy people to tremble. Even in the exhibition of thy mercy and love in the gospel of Christ, thou hast fully evinced thy glory and majesty: and in contemplating thy dealings

with the nations, well may we hide our faces, and say that we are afraid. How can we, who are sinful and degraded creatures, lift our eyes to the place where thine honor dwelleth, or take thy holy name into our guilty and polluted lips? We lament over the coldness and indifference of our own hearts and our lukewarmness in the things of religion; we mourn over the decay of vital godliness around us, and the worldly and carnal spirit with which so many of our fellow-men are actuated; and we would now earnestly pray that thou mayest revive religion in the midst of the years. O Lord, in wrath remember mercy. We have, like prodigal children, gone far from our Father's house; we have despised the wise regulations of our Father's family; we have neglected our advantages; we have abused all our privileges; we have been satisfying ourselves with husks, and have not been seeking to partake of the gospel feast which thou hast prepared for us. We are, indeed, unworthy to be called thy children, and were we to receive our deserts, thy wrath would be our portion, and hell would be our inheritance. Merciful God, deal not with us as we have deserved; look not on us as we have sinned; see, God, our Shield; look on the face of thine Anointed. We would be thankful that there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared; with thee there is mercy and plenteous redemption. Lord, we believe, help our unbelief. Dispose our hearts to listen to thy word, and to receive, in all meekness and humility, thy truth. May it become the rule of our faith, hope, and practice. Pour out on each one of us, now kneeling before thee, thy Holy Spirit in rich abundance, and as we read thy word, may our souls be watered as with the rains and dews of heaven, so that we may bring forth the fruits of righteousness to the praise and the glory of thy name. May thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. May thy way be known upon the earth, and thy saving health among all the people. Let the people praise thee, O Lord, let all the people praise thee. O that thou, who of old didst show thy wonderful work in the deliverance of thy people, mayest be pleased still to manifest thy power in the conviction and conversion of sinners. We bless thy name for the mercies of the past night, make us truly thankful for all thy benefits. Be with us throughout this day. In our goings out, and in our comings in, in the house, and by the way, enable us to set thee the Lord always before us. Forgive the sins of our holy services, and hear us from thy holy habitation, and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—REVELATION VII.

To thee, O Lord, will we go, for thou hast the words and the gift of everlasting life. Thou hast made us, and not we ourselves, therefore to thee we lift up our souls; we seek our happiness in thee alone, and we pray that thou mayest visit us with thy salvation.

Not only hast thou preserved and supported us, but we have received the accumulated proofs of thy goodness and benevolence, when we were in actual and open rebellion against thee. We would acknowledge in deep humility, that we are the monuments of thy mercy, and have not become, as we deserved, the memorials of thy righteous indignation. It is only of thy long-suffering and forbearance in Jesus Christ, that we have not been cut off in the midst of our sin. We desire to celebrate thy praise, and to magnify thy name, for thou art holy. Day unto day uttereth speech, night unto night teacheth knowledge concerning thee. By thy protecting care we have been brought in peace and safety to the close of another day, and in health and comfort we have been again permitted to meet together, as a family, before thee. O Lord, we would be thankful, that thou hast been with us through the various employments, occupations, and duties, in which we have this day been engaged, and we would now make mention of the loving-kindness of the Lord, who is good, and whose mercy endureth forever. We bless thy name for the comfort that we have in our relations, and for the domestic peace and happiness that we enjoy; enable us to be faithful and conscientious in the discharge of all our relative duties. We bless thee for the home in which we dwell, and for the provision which thou hast made for the supply of all our wants; in the midst of all our comforts, help us to remember the wants of the poor and needy, of the homeless and the wanderer; give us grace to bestow of our abundance upon them, and may we be enabled to exercise our charity in the true spirit of the gospel. May our house be a Bethel; a place where thy worship is regularly practised, and where thou, the Lord, mayest delight to dwell. We bless thee, O Lord, for the service of the inferior animals which thou hast placed at our disposal; enable us to use them as thy gift, and not treat them with cruelty, nor make them the instruments of sin. We bless thee, O Lord, for the exercise of our reason which thou continuest to us unimpaired, and we pray that thou mayest help us to devote it to the service of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the extension of his kingdom in the world. We bless thy name, above all, for the gift of thy Son to the children of men, through whose sufferings and death we obtain peace of conscience; and for the great and precious promises which are in him yea and Amen; and for the throne of grace to which, through Christ, we have free and ready access. May thy Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts; may our bodies become the temples of the Holy Ghost; may he enable us to avail ourselves of all our privileges, and to make a right use of all our advantages. Thy goodness has been displayed to us in casting our lot in a land where the gospel is preached. Give us an ear to hear it, an understanding to comprehend it, a heart to relish its truths, and strength of mind to carry them into practice. May our rest, this night, be free from all disquieting fears and all perplexing cares; and may we be preserved from every danger during its silent watches. In thee we put our trust, and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—ZEPHANIAH I.

O LORD, thou art the great God and Governor among the nations, ruling in Jacob, and unto the ends of the earth. Thou displayest thy glory in the works of thy visible creation, in the procedure of thy providence, and especially in the work of our redemption by Jesus Christ. Thou exercisest a supreme, righteous, and merciful government over all the works which thou hast made; and we rejoice that we live under thy moral administration, and that all things work together for good to them that love thee, and are the called according to thy purpose. We acknowledge our constant dependence upon thee, and our increasing obligations to love and serve thee. We desire to thank thee for all the privileges we enjoy, and for all the goodness and mercy thou hast caused to follow us. We acknowledge we have not been duly grateful to thee for thy benefits; that we have been disobedient children unto thee our heavenly Father, and rebellious subjects unto thee our righteous Sovereign. Our sins are numerous, heinous, and highly aggravated, and it is of thy mercies we have not been consumed. O may we be humbled under a deep sense of our sins and sinfulness; may we confess and forsake them, that we may obtain mercy. May we be enlightened, purified, and comforted, and be enabled henceforth to depart from all iniquity, to walk in the way of thy commandments, and to abound in all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the praise and glory of God. Lord, fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in him, according to the grace of our God, and the Lord Jesus Christ. May our faith work by love, and our love be manifested by a cheerful and constant obedience to all God's holy commandments. Thus may we consecrate ourselves to the service of God by presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service. We thank thee for thy kind care over us during the past night, and for the mercies of this morning; and we beseech thee to be with us, and to bless us with thy gracious presence through the day, and to preserve us from all evil. May we be in thy fear all the day, remembering that we are ever under thine inspection, and that thine eye is continually upon us. Assist us in the discharge of the several duties that are incumbent upon us; may we be universally conscientious, and whatever we do, may we do all in obedience to thine authority, in dependence upon thy promised grace, and with a view to thy glory. Hear, O Lord, these our supplications, pardon our offences, and accept of us, and bless us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—REVELATION VIII.

O LORD, thou art the high and lofty One who inhabiteth eternity, and the praises of Israel, and whose name is holy; the Creator and Preserver, the Proprietor and Governor of all things. We bless thee for creating goodness and providential care; but especially for the wonders of thy redeeming love, for so loving the world as to send thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life. We acknowledge that we are less than the least of all thy mercies, and that as sinners we deserve to suffer all the effects of thy righteous displeasure. We bless thee for thy sparing mercy, and pray that it may be accompanied with thy saving mercy to each of us now before thee, that we may be made vessels of mercy, meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work. May thy goodness soften our hard hearts, and lead us to repentance; and, like returning prodigals to our heavenly Father, to say, Father, we have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and are no more worthy to be called thy children. Grant that we may be reconciled unto thee by receiving the atonement, and that being found in Christ, he may be made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption, that glorying we may glory only in the Lord. Thus may we all be saints, holy beings conformed to God in his moral perfections, and constantly employed in his holy and honorable service. O may we receive the spirit of grace and supplication, praying always with all prayer and supplications in the Spirit, and having Christ as our New Testament altar. May we through him offer unto God all our spiritual sacrifices for acceptance. May we remember that if we are not saints, we must be impenitent sinners under the curse of the law, and having thy wrath abiding on us; and that when Christ comes again to be glorified in his saints, and admired in all them that believe, we must be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and the glory of his power. We thank thee, O Lord, for our personal and domestic comforts; and now we commit ourselves to thy care and keeping during the silence and slumbers of the night. May we be safe, being under thy protection, and if spared to see the dawn of another day, may we be raised up in health and comfort, and receive those supplies of grace which are necessary to fit us for its duties. Forgive, we beseech thee, our manifold transgressions, and may these, our imperfect prayers, be heard and answered, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—ZEPHANIAH II.

O LORD, thou art holy, and just, and good, of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Evil cannot dwell with thee, nor can sinners in

themselves stand before thee with acceptance. We are all as an unclean thing, and our iniquities as the wind have carried us away from thee. We have transgressed thy holy law, forfeited all claim to thy favor, and become obnoxious to the effects of thy righteous displeasure. Thou mightest have banished us forever from thy presence, and deprived us of the hope of mercy, and of the privilege of prayer. But we bless thee for opening to us a new and living way, by which we, sinful as we are, may draw near unto thee with the hope of acceptance. We thank thee for setting Christ before us as the way, the truth, and the life; through him we would now come unto thee and present our supplications. Whilst thou art commanding us, in thy word, to turn unto thee that we may live, we beseech thee to give us the grace of true repentance. Turn us and we shall be turned, for thou art the Lord our God; and whilst thou art saying unto us, Seek ye my face, dispose our hearts to reply, Thy face and favor, O Lord, will we seek, for thy favor is life, and thy loving-kindness is better than life and all its enjoyments. Grant, O Lord, that we may be poor in spirit, that ours may be the kingdom of heaven. May we mourn over our sins, that we may be comforted. May we be meek, that we may inherit the earth. May we hunger and thirst after righteousness, that we may be filled. May we be merciful, that we may obtain mercy. May we be peace-makers, that we may be called the children of God; and pure in heart, that we may see God. May it be our constant study to be growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and may we trust in the name of the Lord, that we may be hid in the day of the Lord's anger, and saved from the wrath to come. May we be safe under the protection of the Almighty, and suitably exercised under the dispensations of divine providence. In the day of health and prosperity may we not be proud, and in the day of sickness and adversity may we not despond; but trusting in the Lord, may we be kept in perfect peace, and enabled to say in every situation, Good is the will of the Lord. Deliver us from the slavery of sin and satan; bring us into the glorious liberty of the children of God. May idolatry and wickedness, cruelty and crimes, be banished from the face of the earth; and may incense and a pure offering be presented unto the Lord from the rising to the setting sun. May men be blessed in Christ, and all nations call him blessed. We thank thee, O Lord, for protecting us during the past night, and for any rest we have enjoyed, and for the mercies of this morning. Be with us through the day, assist us in discharging the duties that are incumbent on us and our several stations and relations, and thus may we promote our own personal happiness and the comfort of all the members of our household. Pardon all our offences, accept of our thanks for all thy mercies, and let goodness and mercy follow us all our days, for Christ's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—REVELATION IX.

O LORD our God, thou art exceeding great, being clothed with honor and with majesty. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders. Thy power is Almighty, thy wisdom is unsearchable, thy goodness unbounded, thy holiness unspotted, thy justice inflexible, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. We bless thee for proclaiming thy name to be the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and ready to forgive iniquity, transgression, and sin, and yet will by no means clear the guilty without satisfaction to thy justice. We thank thee for appointing, under the ancient dispensation, typical atoning sacrifices, as prefiguratives of the great atonement which Christ in the end of the world was to make for sin, when he gave himself for us a sacrifice and an offering for a sweet-smelling savor; and we thank thee for setting him forth under the gospel dispensation as a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare thy righteousness in the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God, that thou mightest be just, and the justifier of them who believe in Jesus. We desire, therefore, to approach the footstool of the throne of grace, to confess our sins with humility and contrition, in the hope of obtaining mercy and grace to help in time of need. We acknowledge we have not loved thee with all our hearts, nor worshipped thee in spirit and in truth. We have not hallowed thy name, nor sanctified thy sabbaths. We have failed in the duties we owe unto thee, to our fellow-creatures, and fellow-Christians, and to ourselves. We are exceedingly guilty; our sins are great and highly aggravated. We have been careful about many things, and neglectful of the one thing needful. We have preferred the safety of our bodies to the salvation of our souls, and the shadows of time to the realities of eternity. Deaf to the voice of wisdom, we have walked in the ways of folly; and because sentence against our evil deeds has not been speedily executed, our hearts have been set in us to do evil. Lord, be merciful to us sinners. Justify us freely by thy grace, sanctify us by thy Spirit, strengthen us by thy grace for the various duties we may be called to discharge. Put thy laws into our minds, write them upon our hearts, and cause us to keep thy statutes, and judgments, and all thy holy commandments. Enable us to repent of all our past sins, and to bring forth the fruits meet for repentance; and when thy judgments are abroad in the earth, may we learn righteousness. We thank thee for the mercies of the day that has now closed upon us, and for all the mercies of the week now about to terminate. We commit ourselves to thy gracious protection through the night. If we are spared to see the light of another Lord's day, may we be raised in a spiritual frame of mind, and be enabled to sanctify thy sabbath, and reverence thy sanctuary, and derive much spiritual benefit from thy word and ordinances. And when we shall have finished our course, may we die in faith, and receive the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls. Graciously hear, pardon, and accept of us, and bless us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Fifty-First Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS CXLIII. CXLIV.

GRACIOUS Lord, we desire to come before thee, on this the morning of thine own day, with the voice of gratitude and praise. This is the day the Lord hath made, in it would we rejoice. We bless thee, O Lord, for thy unspeakable gift, Christ Jesus; and that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. Enable us to believe on his name, and rely on his finished work. May we be graciously redeemed from all iniquity, and so purified as to be made a peculiar people, zealous of good works. May we be so strengthened by thy grace, as ever to testify that we have been with Jesus. We mourn, O Lord, that hitherto this has been so much forgotten by us. We mourn that our zeal for good has been so cold; that our faith has been so weak, and our love so transient. We mourn that, notwithstanding all our privileges, we come so lamentably short, that notwithstanding all our light, we still walk in so much darkness. We mourn that we have often allowed the cares and pleasures of this world to wean our hearts from thee, and that through the deceitfulness of sin, we have so often disobeyed thy voice, and despised thy correction. We confess with shame that often through the wilful blindness of our minds, we behold no beauty in Emmanuel, that he should be desired; and no glory in his work, that he should be confided in. O Lord, we beseech thee this day so to fill us with thy Spirit, that the word read and to be spoken may be abundantly blessed to our souls. Wherever Christ is preached this day, there may he be glorified in the conversion of sinners. May thy word be attended everywhere with demonstration of the Spirit, and with power, and may multitudes be led to forsake the service of sin and satan. O Lord, hasten the time when all shall know thee; when the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Hasten the time when the eyes of the spiritually blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf be unstopped, and the lame leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing. Hasten the time when all the divisions in thy church shall be healed; when Judah shall no more vex Ephraim, nor Ephraim envy Judah, but when all thy people shall be of one mind, and one heart. May brotherly love more and more abound, till those that are without are again constrained to say, Behold how these Christians love one another. O Lord, remember the young and rising generation. Bless all the efforts now making for their conversion. Bless every sabbath-school in our land. May teachers and taught be alike taught of thee, and possess not only knowledge in their understanding, but grace in their hearts. Keep us by thy Holy Spirit throughout this day. May we not think our

own thoughts, nor speak our own words, nor do our own actions, on thy holy day. Graciously remember all our friends and relations. May all of them be related to thee by the blood of thy Son, and become friends of Jesus. Give them a new heart, and put a right spirit within them. Cause them to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning, and to know the way in which they should walk. Teach them all to do thy will, and quicken them for thy name's sake. Graciously remember, too, we beseech thee, all the children of affliction. Suit the communications of thy grace to their respective wants. Give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. May they feel that all things whatsoever work together for good to them that love God. Forgive, O Lord, the sins of our holy things, and now graciously hear and answer these our prayers, for Christ's sake. Amen

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALM CXLV.

O LORD, thou art great, and greatly to be praised; thy greatness is unsearchable. All thy works shall praise thee, and thy saints shall bless thee, for thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. We bless thee for all our privileges, for all the means of grace, and for the joyful sound of the gospel. May we not misimprove them, but do thou send a plenteous rain to refresh thine inheritance when it is weary, and make all the places about thy hill a blessing. Our time and our thoughts we have wasted upon the vanities of the world, and have been forgetful and careless of the realities of eternity. We have much need to say, forgive even in our very holiest services, and to plead that thou wouldst not enter into judgment with us, for in thy sight can no flesh be justified. Lead us now to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. May we be washed in his blood, and purified by his Spirit; and give us, O Lord, unwavering trust in thy unchangeable love and grace, and unshaken confidence in the atoning death and glorious intercession of our Redeemer. Do thou so unite us by faith to our great Head, that neither life, nor death, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, may be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus the Lord. Hear, also, O Lord, our prayers in behalf of all thy people throughout the world. Graciously bless all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. Awaken all careless sinners who yet care for none of these things. By thy Spirit convince them of sin, and lead them to inquire what they must do to be saved. Instruct them in the saving knowledge of the Redeemer, and give them grace to believe unto salvation. Let thy word, O Lord, have free course, and be glorified. Remember, we beseech thee, all thy outcast people, who are still loved for their fathers' sake. Bless all the ministers of the gospel,

make them wise, faithful, and diligent in their Master's service. Bless all our friends and relations with the precious blessings of the gospel. Remember also, in thy great mercy, all the children of affliction. In the night of their trouble, do thou encourage them by the stars of thy promises, and may they get grace fully to rely on thy faithfulness, knowing that all thy promises are yea and Amen in Christ Jesus. And now, O Lord, be very near to us. Be our God and our guide, even unto death, and our never-failing portion. During our pilgrimage on earth do thou never leave us, and in our temptations do thou never forget us. Ever make thy grace sufficient for us, and perfect that strength in our weakness. Hitherto, O Lord, thou hast mercifully blessed us, and hast never left thyself without a witness to thy love and goodness, for thou hast crowned us with loving-kindness, and hast satisfied our mouths with good things. Accept of our thanksgiving for all these mercies, and make us more and more grateful. Watch over us during the silent watches of the night, and continue to bless us. Our waiting eyes are now towards thee. Do thou hear and answer us for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—ZEPHANIAH III.

O LORD, we bless thy holy name, that through Jesus Christ we now enjoy freedom of access to a throne of grace. O Lord, graciously draw near to us at this time, and fill us with thy love. So deal with us, that our souls may bless thy holy name for all thy benefits. May we know thee to be gracious in forgiving our sins, healing our diseases, redeeming our lives from destruction, and in crowning us with loving-kindness and tender mercy. We rejoice to know, O Lord, that we cannot ask too much, if we ask in the name of Christ. For his sake thou art ready to fulfil all our petitions, and to supply all our wants. O Lord, we need life, light, and love; and we rejoice that in Christ there is a fulness of these blessings, to which we are all welcome. We beseech thee, O Lord, not to leave us to ourselves. Allow us not to be satisfied with a mere name to live, while dead; or to rest in the form, without the power of godliness. Help us to say in all sincerity of soul, Search us, O God, and know our hearts, and see if there be any wicked way in us. By thy good Spirit, O Lord, do thou teach us, and lead us into the land of uprightness. We deserve not these blessings at thy hands, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. We claim them, not for any merit of ours, but only through the infinite merits and glorious intercession of Jesus Christ, in whom and by whom alone, we can approach with humble boldness the footstool of thy throne. Accept, O Lord, of our thanksgivings for all thy kindness to us since we had a being. We thank thee for what peace and repose we may have last night enjoyed, for the light of another day, and, above all, for the precious truth we have now been permitted to read. We thank thee for all

our unnumbered mercies; but especially for a preached gospel, and an all-sufficient, all-willing Saviour, through whom we may find eternal life. From a sweet experience in our hearts of the truth of thy word, may we truly feel that the gospel is a joyful sound, and may we be enabled to testify by our whole life and conversation its glorious and divine efficacy on the soul. Attend us all, O Lord, throughout this day. Be thou our gracious Keeper; preserve us from all evil, and enable us at all times to let our light so shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, may be led to glorify thee our Father in heaven. May the instructions received by us on thy holy Sabbath be ever brought to our remembrance, and be applied in all the duties and trials of life. Let us never be ashamed of thee nor of thy cause, but so faithfully confess thy name, that all may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. O Lord, graciously remember those that are over us in the Lord. Make them pastors after thine own heart, men of God and men of prayer, faithfully devoted to thy service. Remember, too, all that are in authority over us, that they may at all times be under thy holy guidance, and that we under them may live in peace and godliness. Remember in mercy all the efforts now making to spread the gospel both among Jews and Gentiles. Abundantly bless every exertion, and pour out thy Spirit to refresh thy heritage, for it is weary. Now, what wait we for but thy blessing. Lord, hear us in mercy, forgive, and answer us, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—REVELATION X.

O LORD, enable us now to draw near to the footstool of thy throne, remembering that thou art a Spirit, and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth. Enable us, O Lord, to confide at once in thy wisdom and love, and in our sweet experience may we feel, that through Christ thou canst be a just God and yet a Saviour. We confess, O Lord, that our faith is weak, and that we are ready to give way to the suggestions of unbelief, to walk more by sight than by faith, and thus sinfully to question thy truth and faithfulness. But, O Lord, do thou graciously forgive, and mercifully subdue our unbelief; and sooner may we believe that heaven and earth would pass away, than one promise of thine be unfulfilled, or one pledge unredeemed. May we have a sure and abiding interest in Christ, and serve him with a warm and unchanging love. May we so walk that those who are over us in the Lord may be enabled to give thanks, hearing of our faith and love toward the Lord Jesus and toward all saints. O Lord, be graciously pleased to strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts of all those whom thou hast made pastors in thy church. Remember also, O Lord, the dark places of the earth. Have mercy on those who are still worshipping stocks and stones, and bowing before gods which have eyes but see not, and ears but

hear not. Make them willing in the day of thy power, and speedily bring them to bow the knee to Jesus. And, O Lord, we earnestly entreat thee to remember the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Send forth faithful and devoted men to seek their welfare. Yea, greatly bless all missionaries in their labors of love, whether preaching to Jews or Gentiles. Be especially gracious to all the members of this household. In rich mercy, do thou grant that all of us may belong to the household of faith, and the family of Christ. May our eyes be so opened, and our hearts so touched, that each of us may be able to say, My beloved is mine, and I am his. Accept, O Lord, of our thanksgiving for all thy goodness to us during the past day, for delivering us from evil, for protecting us from danger, and for all our temporal and spiritual comforts. Continue, O Lord, thy goodness to us; and with all thy blessings give us, we beseech thee, the blessing of a grateful heart for all our mercies. Remember all that are in affliction, and suit thy grace to their wants, and bring to their remembrance all thy precious promises. Be thou the Father of the fatherless, the Husband of the widow, the orphan's stay, and the stranger's shield. Remember all thy gracious promises to them, and in their own experience may they know the Lord's unchangeable love and grace. May all their afflictions prove blessings, and by them all may they be led to a closer walk with God. Our waiting eyes, O Lord, are now towards thee, and our hope is in thy word. We plead no merit of ours, but place our entire reliance on the perfect merit of our Lord and Saviour. It is in his name we now approach, and now present these our petitions. O Lord, do thou graciously hear, answer, and forgive, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH I.

HOLY and heavenly Father, in whom the families of the earth are blessed, we bow with one accord before thy throne. We lament, O God, our sins and our shortcomings before thee. Wert thou to mark iniquity, we could not answer thee for one, even the least, of the countless thousands of our transgressions. Enter not into judgment with us, we humbly beseech thee, for in thy sight can no man living be justified. May we be justified freely through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ. Create within us clean hearts and right spirits, sanctify us wholly, and let no idol of this world withdraw our hearts from thee, who alone art worthy of our highest adoration and supreme affection. Enable us to love thee supremely, and to walk in love to one another, as thou hast loved us, and hast given thy Son as a propitiation for our sins. Blessed be now the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for in him thou hast blessed us with all spiritual mercies; and blessed be he who came in the name of the Lord to save us. Blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel, who hath visited and redeemed his people. Our souls mag-

nify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour, for he who is mighty hath done for us great things, holy, and excellent, and venerable is his name. When we consider the glory and majesty with which thou art invested, the spirituality and extent of thy law, the exceeding purity and breadth of the commandment, and, at the same time, reflect upon our own guilt and unworthiness, we have much reason to be covered with shame and confusion in thy holy presence, for our sins are many and aggravated. We have sinned with our fathers, and after the manner of their transgression. O mark not against us our sins, deal not with us according to our ways and our doings, but according to the multitude of thy tender mercies in Christ, even the sure mercies of David, and accept us in the Beloved. Make us more and more sensible of our danger, that we may flee to the stronghold which thou hast provided for the prisoners of hope; and also of our disease, that we may apply to the sovereign Physician of souls for a remedy. Convince us more and more of our wants and our weaknesses, that we may come to thee in whom all fulness dwells, and with whom is everlasting strength. Make us deeply acquainted with our coldness and deadness in spiritual and heavenly things. Quicken us, and we shall be a family rightly calling upon thy name, and worshipping thee in spirit and in truth. We rejoice to know that thou, the Lord God omnipotent, reignest, that all things are under thy sovereign control, that nothing can befall to us without thy permission, and that thou makest all things to work together for good to those who love thee, and are the called according to thy purpose. We pray for the peace and prosperity of our Jerusalem. Build up her walls, repair the breaches of them, and let the ark of thy covenant and of thy strength remain in her temple. May the Holy One of Israel be great in the midst of her, may her suburbs be extended, and may her children multiply and replenish the land. Visit the vine which thou hast planted; let not the beasts of the forest or of the field trample upon it; water it with dew from heaven; may it extend its branches to the ends of the earth: and may generations yet unborn sit under its shade, and be refreshed with its fruit. Let thy watchful eye be upon us for good, guide us this day by thy counsel, prepare us for every duty and for every trial, and enable us to grow daily in grace and in meekness for thy heavenly kingdom and glory. Hear these our humble and united prayers, and give an answer of comfort and of peace, for the sake of Christ our Redeemer, whom thou always hearest, and to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be the glory forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XI.

INFINITELY great and gracious God, of whom, through whom, and to whom, are all things, and who alone art the worthy object of all religious worship, we would lift up our hearts with our hands to

thee in the heavens, and offer unto thee our united homage, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. Quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. Open our lips, and we will show forth thy praise. Look not on us as we are in ourselves; but look on the face of thy beloved Son, and our prayers shall come up before thee as a memorial, through his all-prevalent intercession. For his sake pardon all our sins, and receive us graciously, and love us freely. May he be made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; and may we receive him in all his offices and characters, and rest upon him alone, as he is offered to us in the gospel. Enable us to glorify thee our Father in heaven, and to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. Enlarge our hearts, and we shall run the ways of thy commandments, which are all holy, and just, and good. Give us the knowledge of thee and of thy truth, which maketh wise unto salvation; the faith which worketh by love, and the love which casteth out every fear but that of offending thee. Give us the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom, and the wisdom which cometh from above, and which is first pure, then gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and of all good fruits. Give us what is good, whether we ask it or ask it not; and withhold from us what is evil, though in our ignorance we should ask it; and be ever gracious and bountiful to give us what is truly good for us in time and through eternity. We pray for the advancement of pure and undefiled religion in the world. May thy word have free course everywhere, and be glorified. Give thy Son the heathen for an inheritance. Have mercy on thy once chosen people, the children of Abraham, and bring in the Jews with the fulness of the Gentiles. Pour out thy Spirit on the house of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and open, on the high mountains of Israel, a road for thy flock. We pray for our country, for the sovereign on the throne, and all subordinate magistrates, for the Christian church, and all the ministers of thy word. Pour oil into the lamps of thy sanctuary, that they may give light to all in the house. Put the Spirit of life into thy servants who minister in holy things. May they stand firmly on their feet, and deliver thy word with freedom and faithfulness, and may their report be received with meekness; and may thy arm be manifestly revealed by the number of those who have been turned unto righteousness. May the ark of thy covenant be seen in thy sanctuary on earth; and may we all be prepared to see it more perfectly in the holy place of the heavenly temple. Prepare us for joining in the triumphant song of the saints and angels above, who give blessing, and honor, and glory, to the Majesty of heaven forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH II. III.

O LORD, we bend the knee at thy footstool, and lift up our voice unto thee. Thou art the living and true God, the Creator of heaven

and earth, the Father of angels, and of men ; the first and last ; the wisest and best, the holiest and greatest of beings. Every perfection is thine ; all nature is subject to thy control ; man alone is rebellious. Yet, O Lord, thou pitiest him, and hast sent forth thy Son to save him from eternal ruin, by calling him to repentance, faith, and prayer, in virtue of the great sacrifice of the cross. Our voice, therefore, O Lord, shalt thou hear in the morning ; in the morning will we direct our prayer to thee, and will look up. We approach thee, O Lord, this morning, in the name of Jesus Christ thy Son, and our adorable Saviour. We approach thee with the language of thanksgiving and praise. We bless, we magnify thy holy name together, for the mercies of the past night, for the light of another day, for life, health of body, soundness of mind, food, raiment, society, friends, relatives, and every worldly comfort ; but more especially for spiritual mercies, for Jesus Christ thine unspeakable gift, and for casting our lot in a Christian land. We bless thee, O Lord, with grateful hearts, for pitying man in his low and lost estate ; for sending the Son of thy love to suffer and die for his sins ; and for planting a church in this rebellious world, redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, which may be afflicted, but shall never be forsaken of thee ; which may be persecuted, but shall never be destroyed ; which though small in its beginning, shall be great in its increase, and glorious in its triumphs, subduing and filling the whole earth, of which thou hast spoken, saying, I will be a wall of fire around thee, and the glory in the midst of thee. We pray, O Lord, that we may be brought into thy church, and kept in it by the mighty power of thy grace. Father, we have sinned, and perverted our way before thee. We grieve, we mourn for our sins, which are many and great ; and we desire to hate and forsake them, and to turn unto thee, unfeignedly, with our hearts. O Lord, we beseech thee to have mercy upon us. Blot out our sins, O divine Saviour, in thy most precious blood. Sanctify us, O thou Holy and Eternal Spirit ; and purge our consciences, by the blood of Christ, from dead works, that we may henceforth serve thee in righteousness and fear all our days. Grant us thy mercy, O God ; and show to us thy salvation ; then shall we praise thee with joyful lips. Extend, O Lord, we beseech thee, the borders of the Redeemer's kingdom. Bless the church which thou hast planted and watered with precious blood, and which thou hast sworn to defend against all her enemies. O give unto thy Son, the heathen for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. Fulfil all thy promises made to Christ, and to his believing people ; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Pity, O God, we beseech thee, the perishing heathen ; and O remember in mercy thine ancient people the Jews, and may it be given unto them, as here promised, to dwell in their own land, and worship under their own vine and fig-tree. Lord, be merciful to us this day, and O keep us in thy holy fear, and deliver us from all evil ; for all we ask is in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be praise and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XII.

THE heavens declare thy glory, O Lord, and the firmament proclaims thy handy work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night teaches us new knowledge of thee. Thou, O Lord, makest the mornings and the evenings to rejoice over us. Therefore, O Lord, do we humbly and reverently, in Christ Jesus our Lord, draw near to pay our evening tribute of adoration, gratitude, and praise; also to bewail our transgressions, and humble ourselves before thee; and fervently to implore pardoning mercy, sanctifying, consoling, and quickening grace, and eternal glory beyond death and the grave; as a free gift through the precious blood of thy dear Son. Accept now, O Lord, we beseech thee, our heartfelt thanksgivings for all thy mercies, temporal and spiritual, manifested to us ever since we had a being. See our deep and unfeigned humiliation for sin. And O pity and forgive, for the sake of Christ's righteousness, for the sake of his incarnation, obedience, sufferings, death, resurrection, ascension, and constant intercession at thy right hand. We admire and praise thee, O Lord, for all thy works, which are truly wonderful, but more especially for the stupendous work of human redemption. Herein is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and gave his Son to die for us, and to set up a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy, which shall terminate only with the world itself. Translate us, O God, most merciful, by thy Spirit, into this holy and happy kingdom. Clothe our souls with the bright robes of Christ's righteousness. Infuse also thy healthful grace into our hearts. Make us sons and daughters by adoption. Strengthen us to endure afflictions and temptations. Dispose and enable us to abound in good works. And O preserve us safe to thy heavenly kingdom, so that when we awake on the resurrection morn we may behold thy face in mercy, and be satisfied with thy likeness. Sensible, O Lord, of the great value of gospel blessings, we pray that thy Son's kingdom may be universally extended. O give thy Son the heathen for an inheritance. And let all his obdurate enemies and opposers speedily perish. We rejoice, O Lord, to know, that thy church is not always to abide in the wilderness; but is soon to come forth as the sun, fair as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners. O! hasten the time, and let the song be sung again by multitudes in every land,—Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ, for the accuser of the brethren is cast down, who accused them before God day and night. Bless, O God, most merciful, all our brethren of mankind. Bless the President, and all in authority. Bless our relatives, benefactors, and acquaintances. Visit the sick and afflicted with great compassion. Prepare the dying for death, and teach the living to be ever mindful of death and eternity. Dwell in this family by thy covenant-presence. May the Lord bless us, and keep us evermore; for all we now beg, is for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH IV. V.

WE rejoice, O Lord, in the morning light; for truly the light is sweet, and it is a pleasant thing for the eyes to behold the sun; and we desire to give thee hearty and unfeigned thanks for the mercies of the past night, for the light of a new day, for every worldly comfort, for every social blessing, for food and raiment, and all things which thou hast given us richly to enjoy. Much more, O Lord, would we rejoice in the light of the Sun of Righteousness, for truly his light is sweet, and it is a pleasant thing to behold his face in mercy; and we desire to praise, to magnify thy name, that he has risen upon us and our country with healing in his rays. O may he shine into our hearts this day by the light of his word and Spirit, to enlighten their darkness, to expel their fears, and to assuage their tumultuous sorrows. May he comfort our afflicted souls with the joys of his salvation; and may he turn away the flying roll laden with the curses of Jehovah from our doors, and from our persons and families. May our sun never go down, and may we rejoice in the salvation of the Lord evermore, saying, The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? Lord, we have sinned and perverted our way before thee. We humble ourselves in thy holy sight, and greatly afflict our souls for sin, that abominable thing which thou hatest, for which Christ suffered, bled, and died; and for which he descended into the grave, that we might live eternally. Be merciful to us, O Lord, thine unworthy servants. Christ, be merciful to us, we beseech thee; and O plead our cause with the Father, making mention of thy righteousness, and of thine only. Holy Spirit, be merciful to us, and make intercession within us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, be merciful to us sinners who trust in thee by virtue of the everlasting covenant; and O heal our backslidings, and love us freely; putting thy grace into our hearts, that we may no more wilfully offend against thee, no more handle the ephah of wickedness. Lord, remember, we beseech thee, thy Zion. Build up her walls, beautify her palaces, and strengthen her towers. May she speedily become the joy and refuge of all nations. We rejoice in what is written concerning her, Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me. She was brought low by the sins of her people in the time of her captivity; but thou didst build her up again by thy servants Zerubbabel and Joshua; and thou art still feeding her with oil poured forth from the two olive-branches, the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth; and wilt feed her, we believe and trust, till the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. Lord, hear this our cry, and let thine ear be attentive to the voice of our supplications. Lord, bless us and keep us. Lord, make thy face to shine upon us, and be gracious to

us. Lord, lift up thy countenance upon us, and give us peace. And now unto God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be glory, honor, and praise ascribed forever and ever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XIII.

LORD God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, we worship thee. We adore thee as the true God, as the Father of our spirits, and the framer of our bodies. Early were we cast on thy divine care, and hitherto hast thou sustained us. How manifold, O Lord, are thy loving-kindnesses! They are new to us every morning, and thy faithfulness every evening; yea, every moment of our existence. We thank thee, O Lord, through Jesus Christ, for every one of them, and particularly for Jesus Christ himself, thine unspeakable gift to a lost and perishing world. O may we be saved by him from the wrath to come; and crown, we beseech thee, O Lord, the various acts of thy tender mercies, by bestowing upon us, though his infinite merits, everlasting life and unfading honors. Then shall we praise thee with hearts glowing with admiration, love, and gratitude, not only through the transient scenes of our earthly pilgrimage, but also through the ever-enduring ages of eternity, saying, Now, unto him that loved us, and washed us in his blood, and made us kings and priests unto God, be glory, honor, and dominion, forever. Of the least of thy mercies, O Lord, we are utterly unworthy. Father, we have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight. Our sins are a burden too heavy for us to bear. We confess them. We mourn over them. We cry for help. We look, O God, to thy mercy in Christ. We look to Jesus as crucified for us. We look to the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of Christ for sanctification. We look to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than the blood of Abel, for justification. Thus looking, O suffer us not to perish. Let us be as brands plucked from the fire. Let us be washed, let us be justified, let us be sanctified, by the blood of our Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of the living God. Lord, grant that all men may be brought along with us, our friends, relatives, acquaintances, and benefactors into the kingdom of Christ, set up from the beginning in this evil and rebellious world. And O let no weapon formed against it ever prosper. Bring down the man of sin, the two-horned beast that maketh war against the saints of the Most High. And with him, O Lord, bring down all those antichristian kingdoms that fight to uphold his spiritual despotism. We rejoice, O Lord, that thou reignest, that thou art able, and art pledged to bring down every power that exalts itself against thee and thine Anointed. O hasten the time. Fill the earth speedily with thy glory. Bless our country. Bless our rulers with grace to reign for Christ. Dwell in this family. Watch over us this night. May goodness infinite and covenanted,

be our portion in time and throughout eternity, for the sake of the merits of Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee the Father, and the ever-blessed Spirit, be glory forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH VI. VII.

BLESSED be thy great name, O Lord, for the privilege we enjoy of drawing near to thee in the exercise of prayer, and making our requests known to thee. O that thy Spirit were poured out upon us as a Spirit of supplication, that we might be enabled thereby to approach thy throne in genuine devotion, and through Christ Jesus our Lord, to find acceptance in thy sight. We are not worthy, O God, of the least of all thy benefits. We are the sinful children of apostate fathers; and if thou wert to reward us according to our merits, thou wouldest banish us forever to the place where thy mercy is unknown. Thanks be to thee for all thy great compassion, and for all thy tender mercies toward the children of men. Especially do we praise thee for all the goodness which thou hast caused to pass before us who now worship around thy throne. We rejoice that thou art the Lord God omnipotent that reigneth; that thy decrees stand like the mountains; and that thou hast ordered all things wisely and well. And though our experience in this world be varied; though we are in afflictions sometimes, and sorrow, and again are made joyful by the reception of thy bounty, we would learn, in whatsoever situation we are, therewith to be content; and we would pray that thou wouldest overrule all things for our good, even for the good of our immortal souls. We praise thee for the unspeakable gift of thy Son, and for all the hopes and prospects which are opened up to us through him. We thank thee that thou hast opened up a way, by the shedding of the blood of the Lamb of God, whereby thou mayest justify the ungodly, and yet be the just God who hates sin and punishes transgressors. O that we were all enabled to receive him as he is offered to us in the gospel, as our prophet, our priest, and our king. O that we had an experimental acquaintance with him, and that we were enabled in truth to say of him, He is all our salvation and all our desire. Forgive, we beseech thee, the hardness of our hearts, and the rebelliousness of our lives; and pour out the influences of the Holy Spirit upon us to conform us to the image of Christ, and to receive him as all and in all to us. We bless thee, O Lord, for the high privileges with which we have been favored. We thank thee that thou hast established thy church in the midst of us; and that Jesus the Head of the church, is daily building up the temple of the Lord. We earnestly entreat that thou wouldest hasten the triumphs of the Redeemer's cause; that thou wouldest hasten the time when wickedness shall hide its face as if ashamed, and when all shall know the truth, and by it be made free. Break down whatever opposes the progress of the gospel, whether it be heathenish idolatry, Mahometan delusion, or popish superstition. Send forth

thy light and thy truth, to scatter the darkness which broods over the hearts of the children of men. Let all the people praise thee, O Lord, let all the people praise thee. And may we, who profess to be thy servants, have grace imparted to us, to enable us to walk worthy of our vocation. May we avoid ungodliness, and live soberly, righteously, and godly, in the present evil world, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Do thou take us, and all who are dear to us, under thy care through the course of the day which we now begin. May thy word be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path, guiding us in the ways in which we should walk. May we be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Prosper, we pray thee, the works of our hands, that we may have wherewith to supply our own wants, and to minister to the necessity of the poor around us. The Lord be our portion, and the portion of our friends, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XIV.

O LORD, thou who art the Father of the spirits of all flesh, unto thee would we lift up our souls in prayer. Who would not fear thee, O God, and glorify thee, for thou only art the holy One. Yet blessed be thy name, that whilst thou art great beyond all conception, and whilst we are wicked and unworthy creatures, it is yet our high privilege to approach thy throne as humble suppliants. Mercifully hearken to the voice of our evening prayers, and graciously pardon our numerous trespasses, dealing with us not according to our merits, but according to thy great compassion. O our God, we are ashamed, and blush to lift up our faces before thee, for our iniquities are increased over our heads, and our trespass is grown up into the heavens. Our understandings are darkened, our mind is carnal, our thoughts are evil, our affections are earthly; we have spoken frowardness; we have done wickedly; we have forgotten the God who made us; we have lightly esteemed the Rock of our salvation. Even during the day, now drawing to a close, we have sinned against thee, times without number. The good we would, that we have not done; the evil we would not, that we have done. Did we not say we would not transgress, we would not offend any more? Yet we have not performed the words of the covenant which we made before thee, but as treacherous dealers we have dealt treacherously. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon our iniquity. O let us have the blessedness of those whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered, to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. O let us have redemption through Christ's blood, even the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of thy grace. Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us salvation. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with his benefits. The candle of the Lord hath shined upon our head, and by his light

we have walked through darkness, and the secret of the Lord has been in our tabernacle. We will extol thee, our God, O King, and will bless thy name forever and ever. Every day will we bless thee, we will abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and sing of thy righteousness. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in Christ. We receive it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Glory be to God in the highest, there is on earth peace, and good-will toward men. O that we all may be savingly interested in that glorious work which Christ accomplished on Calvary with his agony and blood. Grant us an increase of faith, that more firmly and fondly than ever we may be able to lay hold on Jesus as our only refuge. And give us to be crucified with Christ, so that the life we now live in the flesh, we may live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us. May the privileges we so richly enjoy, be likewise extended to others. Lord, teach transgressors thy ways, and let sinners be converted unto thee. Let the word of God prevail to the pulling down of strongholds, and the casting down of imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and let every thought be brought into obedience to Christ. Let the people which sit in darkness see a great light, and to them which sit in the region and shadow of death, let light spring up. And now, Lord, we commend us to thee. Thou art our refuge, and our strength. The Lord watch over us, even he that keeps Israel, and neither slumbers nor sleeps. The Lord be our shade on our right hand, that the sun may not smite us by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord preserve us from all evil, the Lord preserve our souls. The Lord preserve our going out and coming in, from this time forth, even forever more, for Christ Jesus' sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH VIII.

Most merciful Father, we praise and magnify thy name for the rich provision thou hast made for the well-being of thy church, even in dark and troublous times; for the exceeding great and precious promises of thy word; for the sweet and refreshing consolations of thy Spirit; for the bright prospects of the coming glory; and for all the lessons of instruction embodied in thy procedure in the days of old with the seed of Abraham thy servant. May thy Spirit enable us to form right conceptions of the wisdom and rectitude of all thy dealings; and seeing that blindness hath now happened in part, even to the very people to whom pertained the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises, whose were the fathers, and of whom, as concerning the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever; and

that by reason of their fall salvation hath come unto the Gentiles ; O preserve us from the guilt and devices of an unbelieving spirit, lest our provocations also should, in like manner, bring down upon us the vengeance of thy righteous judgments. But grant rather, that impressed with a sense of our solemn responsibility, and alive to the value of our religious privileges, we may be enabled diligently to improve them in this the day of our merciful visitation, that so the gospel, which has been unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness, may become unto us the wisdom of God, and the power of God unto our salvation. Nor let the influence of these high privileges be confined altogether to ourselves. Let ours be the honor of co-operating with thyself in the building up of the walls of Zion, that so the enlargement of thy church may not only diffuse the blessings of external prosperity over the land, but be rendered instrumental in the bringing out of all nations of many sons and daughters unto glory. Have mercy especially on thine ancient people. O grant that the veil may be removed from their eyes, that they may look upon him whom they have pierced, and may mourn, and be in bitterness for him as one mourneth and is in bitterness for an only son ; that so thou mayest conduct them to the fountain opened to the house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin, and for uncleanness, whilst in that day thou puttest the song of the prophet into their lips. O Lord, I will praise thee ; though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest me. Behold God is my salvation ; I will trust, and not be afraid ; for the Lord Jehovah is my strength, and my song ; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall we draw water out of the wells of salvation. Accept of our thanks for thy goodness to us through the night. Be with us during the course of this day. Assist us in the faithful discharge of every duty, in the vigorous resistance of every temptation, in the patient endurance of every trial. And hear us, and accept of us, and bless us, not because of any merit that belongs to ourselves, for in ourselves we deserve not the least of all thy mercies, but only for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son, with whom thou art always well-pleased, and whom thou hearest always. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XV. XVI.

O LORD, most holy and true, we desire this evening, in presenting ourselves before thy throne, to have our minds so imbued with the sentiments of thy holy word, that we may stand greatly in awe of thy Majesty, and of thy terrible judgments. Thou art indeed to be feared, and to be had in reverence of all that are round about thee, for thou art a most holy Lord God, who takest vengeance of men's inventions, and who wilt by no means give thy glory unto another. O forbid that we should ever be found in the position of stout-heart-

ed and impenitent sinners, who are either far from righteousness, or wandering in paths of darkness or delusion, refusing to come to the light lest our deeds should be reprov'd, and seeking shelter to ourselves in refuges of lies. In thy great mercy do thou deliver us from all blindness of understanding, and from all callousness of heart, and from all sear'dness of conscience, and from all waywardness of affection, and from all systems of falsehood or corruption, that would keep us at a distance from the great Redeemer, whom thou hast revealed to guilty and miserable sinners as the way, and the truth, and the life. And so vouchsafe to us of the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that sitting at his feet with the docility of little children, we may be brought to the knowledge of the truth, and made wise unto salvation. And grant, that counting all things but less for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, we may win him, and be found in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ; the righteousness which is of God by faith, that so we may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, and be made conformable unto his death, and attain unto the resurrection of the dead, and be finally admitted into the kingdom of heaven. Nor suffer us at any time to be indifferent to the purity of eternal truth, or regardless of the glory of the Redeemer's cause. Looking frequently within the veil, and beholding the ministering spirits that are pouring out on the earth below, vials that are impregnated with wrath for the destruction of sinners, as well as laying on the altar above, censers that are filled with the prayers of saints; may it be given to us to embody in our own characters somewhat of their fervent charity towards all that is holy, and just, and true, blended with their righteous zeal against all that is base, and abominable, and false. And O grant thy people everywhere being stirred up, not only to pray, but to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, that all obstacles to the progress of the truth may be removed; that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified amongst all nations, that so the blessed era may come speedily, when the power of antichrist shall be utterly destroyed, and the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the whole earth. Father of mercies, for the blessings of the week now drawing to a close, we render unto thee, as is most due, the devoutest gratitude of our hearts. Take us, and ours, under thy protection, during the silent watches of the night. And grant that, being refreshed with the sleep which thou promisest to thy beloved, we may arise in the morning impressed with a sense of thy great mercies, and prepared for joining without distraction of spirit, and with all our hearts, in the solemn and delightful services of another day of the Son of man. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

Fifty-Second Week.

SABBATH MORNING.—PSALMS CXLVI. CXLVII.

HEAVENLY Father, who art ever to be sought after in the way of thine appointment, we come unto thee on this the morning of thy holy day, specially imploring that thou wouldest send down upon us a large portion of thy Spirit, to sanctify us for the solemn services in which thou invitest us to engage. O forbid that we should ever be tempted, either by the force of our own corruptions, or by the allurements of a world lying in wickedness, to cast contempt on any of the ordinances which thou hast established, or be led to engage in them with a spirit of carelessness or formality, lest they should become the savor of death unto death, instead of the savor of life unto life. But entering into the courts of thy house with true hearts, and in the full assurance of faith, may we be enabled to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth, offering to thee the sacrifices of righteousness, and rendering the glory that is due to thy great name. This day especially may we attain to some elevated conceptions of the power, and tenderness, and eternal Godhead of that great Redeemer, who reigneth over Zion throughout all generations. Whatsoever be the number, the variety, or the urgency of our wants, we rejoice that we have access to the very Being who regulates the movements of all worlds, whilst he attends to the interests of the humblest of his people. May he be the propitiation for all our sins, and the foundation for all our hopes, and the fountain of all our consolation; and coming to him, in his ordinances, with simplicity of faith, and with enlarged desires, may we be so relieved from the pressure of our burdens, so cleansed from the pollution of our sins, and so replenished with the fatness of his house, that we may go forward on our way rejoicing, adorning the doctrine of Jesus Christ our Saviour in all things, and bringing forth the fruits of righteousness which are to the praise and glory of God. Father of mercies, and God of all grace, who lovest the gates of Zion, yet despisest not the dwellings of Jacob, look thou with an eye of tenderness on all afflicted and sorrowful spirits shut out this day from the precious ordinances of thy house, and lying upon beds of languishing, or of death. Amid the multitude of their anxious and disquieting thoughts, let thy sweet comforts replenish and delight their souls. Grant, especially, that the angel of the everlasting covenant may be with them, even he upon whom thy Spirit hath descended, because thou hast anointed him to preach good tidings unto the meek, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to comfort all that mourn, to give unto them that mourn in Zion beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Even amid their silent and their solitary

sabbaths, may they hear his blessed voice saying to them, Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. And grant that, entering freely into spiritual fellowship with him, they may be so comforted amid all their tribulations, and so animated with the hopes of the future glory that, forgetful of their miseries, they may be joyful upon their beds, singing aloud the high praises of God, and feeling in their very hearts that their light affliction, which is but for a moment, is not worthy to be compared with the glory that is yet to be revealed. The angel that walketh amid the golden candlesticks be present this day in all the churches throughout the Christian world, that so the voice of rejoicing and salvation may be heard in all the tabernacles of the righteous. And let the words of our mouths, and the mediation of our hearts, find acceptance in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our strength, and our Redeemer. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.—PSALMS CXLVIII. CXLIX. CL.

O LORD of hosts, who dwellest in the high and holy place, seated on the throne of the universe, and inhabiting eternity with all its glories, condescend, in thy great mercy, to touch our hearts, this evening, as with a live coal from off thine altar, that so they may be stirred up with all that is within them to the celebration of thy praise. It is a privilege altogether inestimable, that thou invitest us to come, even in the character of needy and miserable suppliants, to the very throne on which thou art seated, because if we ask in faith thou hast promised to give to us the blessings that we need, both for the world that now is, and for the world that is to come. But wherewithal shall we extol the riches and liberality of thy grace, in calling us to aspire also to the spirit of adoration, and thus permitting us to take a part in the highest of all the exercises in which it is possible even for unfallen intelligences to engage! Yet we lament that our hearts are so indifferent to the value of this high privilege, and that even on the day specially set apart for thy worship there is so little in common between us and the glorified hosts, who are serving thee day and night in thy temple, singing forever, without distraction, and without weariness, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come! O that our hearts were so enlarged in the range of their desires, and so expanded with all the fulness of God, that we might be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, of that love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ours, even now, may be the spirit of heaven, making us joyful in the house of our pilgrimage, and furnishing the prelude and preparation for the new song which shall be sung forever before the throne above, unto him that hath loved us, and given himself for us. Follow with thy rich blessing

all the religious exercises in which we and thy people throughout the Christian world have this day been engaged. Whatever salutary impressions have been produced, do thou strengthen and confirm more and more; and give us grace to carry the influence of our religious exercises wherever we go, that in all the business of life, and in every relationship, and in all that we do, we may let our light so shine before men that they may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus; and grant also, that by means of the services of every successive sabbath that we spend on earth, our souls may approximate to a greater meetness for the enjoyments of that sabbath above, which shall be without weariness, without sadness, and without end. And now, O Lord, let thy blessing be upon us, and upon all in whom we are interested. Let thy blessing be upon our rulers; let thy blessing be upon our senators, that they may be guided by the wisdom that cometh from above; on our magistrates, that they may be a terror to evil-doers, and in all things a praise and protection to those that do well; on our ministers, that the pleasure of the Lord may prosper greatly in their hands; on the great body of the people, that they may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty; on the poor, the comfortless, the bereaved, the tempted, and the dying, that the joys of the Lord may be their strength and their song; let thy blessing be upon ourselves, in soul, and in body, and in spirit, that we may be thine amid the watches of the night, thine amid the light of the morning, thine during the future course of our pilgrimage, thine in the day of our prosperity, thine amid the swellings of Jordan, thine in the morning of the resurrection, thine in the day of judgment, and thine forever. And unto him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, be all the praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH IX. X.

O LORD, who art the confidence of thy people, and the confusion of thine enemies, we come this morning to seek the hiding-place of thy grace. We confess before thee our sins, and our manifold provocations, walking contrary to thee, as we have done, and rebelling against thee, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments. And we have to lament that every day brings us fresh occasion for shame and confusion of face in thy presence, adding, as it does, to the catalogue of our offences. Deal not with us, we entreat thee, according to our iniquities; for if thou rise up against us to execute judgment, we cannot answer thee for one of a thousand. We cast ourselves on thy free pardoning mercy in Christ Jesus the Lord. O may his blood be the cleansing of all our sins. We come to thee also to ask the renewal of our hearts. We have occasion to testify and make complaint against ourselves, that while God is en-

titled to all our heart, and soul, and mind, other objects and other influences steal in upon our affections and estrange them from thee. O let us not thus continue to be a reproach to ourselves, and a living offence against the claims which thy transcendent, thine infinite mercy, has established upon our gratitude. Bestow upon us, we beseech thee, that effectual teaching and operation of thy Holy Spirit, which shall ensure all our affections to God, and enlist all our energies to thy service. We take the more encouragement to prefer this petition, for that thou hast invited us to ask rain in the time of the latter rain. Come thou down, then, with such copious spiritual effusions as shall be to us like rain upon the mown grass, as showers that water the earth. So that our Christian graces and virtues shall revive, and grow, and expand, and yield much fragrance. We pray for thy blessing this day upon this family. Be their God. Vouchsafe to them thy counsel. Uphold them by thy grace. Direct them in the active duties of life. Protect them from its temptations and dangers, and may they, from stage to stage of their sojournings, have occasion to adopt the memorial, Hitherto the Lord hath helped us. All we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XVII.

O LORD, who art a Spirit, enable us this evening to approach thee in spirit and in truth. Enable us to treat the singleness of thy gracious purpose with the singleness of contrite and fervent hearts. We thank thee for the gospel, the pure, the benignant, the peace-inspiring gospel. We thank thee for the ordinances, the simple ordinances of Christianity, fraught with such gracious earnestness of heaven's mercies to the soul. We thank thee for the bible, and for the freedom of its perusal. We thank thee for sabbaths, and for their spiritual sanctity. O may we be taught to cultivate these privileges, in the spirit of the admonition, that to whom much is given, of them much shall be required. We pray that thou wilt endow us with the native, lovely, and lowly graces of Christ's own gospel. Suppress in us every lofty imagination, every high thought, every aspiring temper, every vain-glorious motive, every ostentatious feeling, every self-exalting impulse, every self-righteous pretension. Beget in us, we entreat thee, a love for whatever partakes of the simplicity, the lowliness, the meekness, the gentleness that is in Christ. May we be taught the apostolic precept, To be clothed with humility. May our adorning be that of a meek and quiet spirit. May our ruling principle be unfeigned faith wrought by God in us. May our frame of heart be love, as Christ also loved us. May our trophies of Christian calling be the beauties of holiness. May our proficiency be in that wisdom which is from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And may our glorying, if

we glory at all, be in the cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May our dependence be on thy Holy Spirit. We thank thee, O Lord, for thy goodness during the past day. We commend us to thy gracious care this evening. Amid the silent hours of darkness be thou our defence, spreading over us the guardianship of thy wakeful providence, and making a covenant with the night that no evil shall come near us. May our sleep be sweet, our safeguard being the Lord. Hear thou us in thy mercy, and answer us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH XI.

O LORD, the all-seeing Jehovah, whose eyes behold, and whose eyelids try the children of men, look down upon us at this time to prove our hearts, and whilst thou provest in thy mercy, to amend them. We often know not what manner of spirit we are of, and if left to our own dimness of discernment will be betrayed into the most fatal mistakes as to our character and state. But thou, O God, do thou search us and know our hearts, try us and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. More especially do we entreat thee, heavenly Father, to preserve us from a spurious profession of thy blessed gospel. O may it not be ours to incur the guilt of crucifying afresh the Lord of life. Slay thou rather within us whatever would oppose itself to his undivided empire over our hearts. Let not sin be the darling object of our affection while we profess Christ. Let not the world occupy the supreme place in our affections while we profess Christ. Let not self-righteousness exert a secret sway over our minds while we profess Christ. Let not unhallowed tempers, and inclinations, and appetites hold ascendancy in our bosoms while we profess Christ. O may Christ himself be enthroned, where alone he is entitled to reign, in our heart, and soul, and mind. Cast thou down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against his knowledge, and bring into captivity our every thought to the obedience of Christ. May we be enabled, in unfeigned sincerity, to testify he is the chiefest among ten thousand, and altogether lovely. And may our life, our daily life, be a practical comment on the language, We count everything but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. O Lord, who bringest the light out of his chambers, we thank thee for the dawn of another day, and for the many blessings with which it finds us surrounded. Teach us to sacrifice unto thee the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and to declare thy works with rejoicing. Surely it belongs to us to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. For thou, Lord, presentest us with the blessings of thy goodness; thou makest the outgoings of the morning, and of the evening to rejoice over us. We pray that thou wilt enable us to dedicate this

day to thy glory. May no wilful offence against thee be indulged by us. May no service which we can render in thy name be indifferent to us. May what is well-pleasing in thy sight be what is most grateful to our minds. Give us this day our daily bread. Enable us to discharge every personal, domestic, and social duty aright. Dispose us for all thy will, whether that will be to crown us with blessing, or to visit us with trial. In either case may God be our rock, for there is no unrighteousness in him. Hear us in heaven thy dwelling-place, and forgive, and accept, and do, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XVIII.

O LORD, the great and dreadful God, whose eye of purity cannot behold iniquity, and the fire of whose holy indignation shall utterly devour thine enemies, we come, this morning, to abase ourselves at the footstool of thine infinite Majesty. Let not the fervor of thy righteous jealousy burn against us, while we seek to produce our cause, to bring with us reasons, to take with us words, why God should avert his anger; while even we venture to prefer the language, take away all iniquity. We have, indeed, heinously sinned, and wherewith shall we answer thee. And if thou wert to lay judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet, we must entail the extreme measure of thy wrath; must be consigned to the blackness of darkness forever. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. We plead that there is a fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness; that there is peace in the blood of the cross; that there is a propitiation of thine own gracious approval for sin; that there is a way opened into the holiest of all by the blood of Jesus. And our prayer is, that thou wilt see God our shield; that thou wilt behold us in the face of thine Anointed; that thou wilt admit us to the exercise of thy free grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ; that thou wilt let thine eye be upon the Man of thy right hand, upon the Son of man, whom thou madest strong for thyself; that thou wilt regard all our transgressions as blotted out in that precious blood of Christ which cleanseth from all sin; that thou wilt accept us in the Beloved. O God, we come to entreat that thou wilt grant us true repentance, and thy Holy Spirit. We have occasion to be jealous of ourselves lest any amount of the abominable thing which thou hatest should still adhere to us. But we would seek our resource in thy great and precious promises and assurances. Is not Christ exalted a Prince and a Saviour, to grant repentance as well as remission of sins? Is the Lord's arm shortened that it cannot save? Is thy Spirit straitened that it cannot deliver? Is not thy promise, If ye being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to them who ask him? O vouchsafe unto us, then, those effective influences of thy grace which shall lay prostrate the whole of

our moral man to God. Pour in upon our souls that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation. May the mountains of our remaining corruptions melt down at thy presence. May the hard and stony fabric of our hearts be softened into sympathy with thine overflowing mercies. May the sensibilities of a tender and broken spirit abide with us as a perpetual source of holy experience, and diffuse themselves in every direction in our lives in perpetual issue of holy actions. O thou who keepest Israel, we consign us, this night, to thy care. May we lay us down and sleep, the Lord protecting us. May we awake to the light and duties of a new day, the Lord sustaining us. May thy goodness, and thy mercy, follow us from day to day, and may we dwell in the house of the Lord forever. We present our thanksgivings and prayers in his name, whom thou acceptest always. And now, 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.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH XII. XIII.

O THOU that hearest prayer, pour out upon us, according to thy promise, the Spirit of grace and of supplication. May he enable us to worship thee with reverence and holy fear. We would mourn before thee because of our great and manifold transgressions. We have offended thee, O our God. We have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are no more worthy to be called thy children. But we bless thee with all our heart, that as we have been great transgressors, we have a great Saviour, whose blood cleanseth from all sin, and who is able to save to the very uttermost. We come to thee this day through him. The sword of justice has smitten him. The great and good Shepherd has given his life for the sheep. O for his sake, turn thy hand of mercy upon us. Pardon our iniquities, for they are very great; and let us know the blessedness of the man whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sin is covered. O Holy Spirit, condescend to take up thy gracious dwelling in each of our hearts. Alas, they are polluted, the seat of many idols. But thou art the Spirit of grace. Take away their pollutions, expel their idols, give us the new heart, that we may walk in the ways, and keep the statutes of the Lord, and do them. And now, when we are to go forth into the world, and be conversant with its duties, its temptations, and its trials, we consecrate ourselves, O our God, unto thee. May thy light and thy truth guide us; may thy strength support us; may we endure, as seeing thee who art invisible, and count it our meat and our drink to do the will of our heavenly Father. Our own interests we leave with thee. Our afflicted friends and brethren we commend to thy compassion. Zion, the city of our solemnities, we make mention of before thee. May her purity and her peace be promoted; may her boundaries be enlarged; may her hallowed privi-

leges soon be extended to the people of every language and every clime. Gather to thyself thy long outcast people of Israel, and bring in the fulness of the Gentiles. Enable us, O gracious God, highly to prize, and suitably to improve all the invaluable blessings and privileges which we ourselves enjoy. May we bring forth fruit under them all to thy praise and glory. And now, O Hearer of prayer, may our unworthy persons, and our imperfect worship, be accepted in thy sight, for the sake of him who is our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XIX.

O God, we adore thee, and desire to rejoice in thee as the God of Zion, the church's God. Thou hast said of Zion, This is my rest forever, here will I dwell, for I have desired it. Thou hast been with her throughout all generations, and hast never forsaken her. Thou hast moved toward her, in thy providence, many times in a dark and mysterious way, clouds and darkness have been round about thee. But thou hast been Zion's God still. By her afflictions thou hast tried the faith and patience of her members, thou hast purified her in the furnace. And we believe and rejoice that thou wilt be with her even to the end. O blessed God, may we be numbered among the true members of thy spiritual Zion. Let us not be satisfied with a mere form of godliness, a name to live, while we are dead. Let us be brought, in thy great mercy, into a pardoned, accepted, and holy state. From all our innumerable transgressions may we be purified by faith in the fountain of the Saviour's blood. May it be granted to us to be arrayed in the fine linen which is the righteousness of saints, even in thy righteousness, O blessed Jesus. We would count all things but loss, that we may win thee, and be found in thee. The crown of our salvation we would place on thy head, O thou King of kings, and Lord of lords, for thou art worthy. Subdue us unto thyself. Make us thy willing people in the day of thy power. And enable us, by thy Holy Spirit, to follow thee fully in all the paths of holy obedience, in the observance of thy sacred institutions, and in all the leadings and disposals of thy sovereign and wise providence. Let us be faithful unto death, and at last receive a crown of life. We put thee in remembrance, O thou Faithful and True, of these blessed promises respecting thine ancient people, and thy Gentile church, on which we have been permitted to meditate at this time. And we plead their fulfilment. Gather into one the outcasts of Israel; and let the united church of Jews and Gentiles soon lift up her joyful voice, and say, Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. And now, Father of mercies, when brought to the close of another day, we raise our souls in gratitude to thee, because of all the kindness that has brought us hitherto. May the everlasting arms be underneath us, and all who are near and dear to us, during the slum-

bers of the night. And if we shall be spared, in thy goodness, to behold the light of another day, when we awake, may we be still with thee. Hear us, O Lord, our God, for thy beloved Son's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.—ZECHARIAH XIV.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the God of providence. Thou rulest over all. Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are all thy ways, O thou King of saints. Thou wilt fulfil thy threatenings against thine adversaries, as surely as thy promises to them that fear and love thee. We would, for our part, take refuge under the shadow of thy wings. We bless thee for him, our glorious Emmanuel, who is a hiding-place from the storm, and a covert from the tempest. We would, in the humble confidence of faith, enter into that hiding-place. There we are safe from guilt and from wrath, both here and hereafter. There we are accepted in the Beloved. And there we can, and there we desire to hold blessed converse with thee as our Father and our God. We adore and bless thee, O Lord, as the God of salvation. Our souls magnify thee for its wondrous scheme, for its glorious Executor, for his finished work, for his exaltation to give repentance and the remission of sins, for the free offer of mercy through his blood, and because we, the dwellers in the isles afar off in the sea, have heard the joyful sound. But, O our God, we would fear lest a promise having been given us of entering into thy rest, we should come short of it through unbelief. Save us, we beseech thee, from this great sin. O may it be given to us, on behalf of Christ, to believe on his name. And all-guilty and hell-deserving as we are, receiving him and resting upon him, may we have peace with thee, and access into the grace wherein thy people stand, and be enabled to rejoice in hope of the glory of God. We rejoice, blessed Jesus, in the promise that thou shalt be King over all the earth. O let thy kingdom come. Erect it in these poor, rebellious, polluted hearts of ours. Subdue them to thyself. Renew them by thy Holy Spirit to delight in obedience to thine ordinances and thy laws. And, through him that loved us, may we be made more than conquerors over all the enemies of our salvation. We bless thee for all thy holy institutions. Make them indeed the means of grace to our souls. As we go forward in the observance of them, may we grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we make it our persevering study, and be enabled by the Spirit of holiness to die to all sin, and to live unto righteousness. We unite this morning in thanksgiving to our Preserver. We have slept and awaked, because thou hast made us to dwell in safety. And now, O our covenant God, we lift up our eyes to thee for thy mercy to conduct us in thy fear through the duties, temptations, and trials of this day. Enable us to set the Lord before us, and he will direct our steps. Remember, in thy great mercy, our

afflicted and sorrowing friends and brethren everywhere. May their troubles be alleviated, and their consolations, through Jesus Christ, greatly abound. Do good in thy good pleasure to Zion, build up the walls of thy Jerusalem. Let no weapon formed against Zion prosper, and every tongue that riseth in judgment against her do thou condemn. O have respect unto thy covenant, for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. Let thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let men be blessed in Christ, and all nations call him blessed. Our humble prayer, O our God, is before thee; hear us, for thy name's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XX.

EVER-BLESSED and adorable God, we, thine unworthy and sinful creatures, would this evening approach the footstool of thy throne. We would humble ourselves before thy holy majesty, and confess that we are not worthy to take thy name into our lips. O let not the Lord be angry when we take upon us to speak unto the Lord. Behold in us thy beloved Son, Christ Jesus, in whom thou art well-pleased. And for his sake, because he is worthy, may we find grace in thy sight. We praise thee, O most gracious God, for all thy manifold providential gifts, and for all the saving mercies which any of us have been privileged to enjoy. O if the Spirit of grace has revealed to us the excellency and glory of Jesus, the Saviour; if he has enabled us to receive him into our hearts by faith, and shed abroad his love into our hearts, and brought us to dedicate ourselves to be his people and servants forever, may we be filled with holy, humble gratitude, and spend our redeemed lives to thy praise and glory. If there be amongst us any who are without Christ, dead in trespasses and sins, unpardoned, unholy, O, we beseech thee, Lord, have mercy. Take such from the fearful pit and the miry clay. Lead them to the blood of sprinkling. May they lay hold of the hope set before them, and experience, through the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that blessed change of heart, that spiritual resurrection, without which no man shall see the Lord. Then shall we be a happy family indeed; having thee as our covenant God, enjoying the goodwill of him who dwelt in the bush, and conducted onward by thy free Spirit to the land of everlasting uprightness. O our gracious God, we plead thy fatherly pardon for all the transgressions of heart and life wherewith this day we have transgressed against thee. Alas! that we should so often offend thee; so often grieve thy Holy Spirit; so often wound him who redeemed us by his own blood. Subdue our iniquities. Cast our sins into the depths of the sea. Heal our mournful diseases; there is balm in Gilead, and a physician there. When, in thy good providence, we are permitted to retire to the repose of another night, O Shepherd of Israel, be thou our

protector. May we dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. We pray on behalf of all our brethren of mankind. Have mercy on those who know thee not, who, in the midst of external light, are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death. And may the light of everlasting life soon be made to shine into all lands, that men may know thee, from the least even to the greatest. O thou Comforter of them who are cast down, may thy consolations be ministered to all the sons and daughters of affliction and sorrow. And may we, and all who are near and dear to us, be taught of thy Holy Spirit to live as those who are strangers in the earth. May our portion be on high, and may our hearts be there; and in the day when Jesus shall come to be glorified in his saints, and admired in them that believe, may we form part of that happy company who shall be found in him, and shall enter in with him into the everlasting kingdom of their Father and their God. Now, unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think, be glory in the church, by Jesus Christ, throughout all ages. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.—MALACHI I. II.

O THOU holy Lord God Almighty, we would approach unto thy presence and learn to speak thy praise. We bow before the Lord our Maker. In conscious unworthiness we would bow down our souls while we reverently adore our Creator, our Preserver, our Judge. We have fallen by our iniquity. We have sunk into a fearful pit. We have destroyed ourselves. Out of the depths, O Lord, we cry unto thee. Hear us, God of our salvation. Look on him who bare iniquity in his own body on the tree, and for his sake have mercy on us. Now, seeking to hold communion with God, we would place our confidence in the appointed Mediator. We seek to approach the Holy One. Unclean, we draw nigh to him who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. We come through the veil now rent, into the holy place; we turn our eyes toward the mercy-seat, that we may see there the glory of the Lord. O Lord, show us thy glory, thy glory as it is seen in the face of Jesus. Admit us now into thy presence, in Christ accepted worshippers before thy throne. Admitted, through him who loved us, to hold converse with thee our God, we would frame our lips to speak thy praise. We will remember thy works, thy works of wonder done unto the sons of men, and we will learn to praise the Lord for his goodness. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us be stirred up to bless his name. Thy thoughts, O Lord, have not been as our thoughts, nor thy ways as our ways. Thou hast not dealt with us as we have sinned. We were lost. By nature we were all under the curse, the curse of God. Under that curse we could not lie, it would weigh us down into hell. Yet we are spared, and are here praying in hope.

There is no help in man, but thou, Lord, hast laid our help on One that is mighty. God said, Save from going down to the pit. God gave his own Son to save the lost; thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. And now, Lord, unable to save ourselves, we wait for thy salvation. We pray for grace according to our need. Lord, increase our faith. Enable us to place our confidence where thou hast laid our help; enable us to build our hopes on the foundation thou hast laid. Lord Jesus, thou art mighty to save, stretch out thine hand to help us. Lord, save us or we perish. Cleanse us in thy blood. Clothe us in thy righteousness. Deny not thy grace. Withhold not thy enlightening and convincing Spirit. Redeemer exalted, redeem our souls from sin, and death, and hell. And now, O God of providence and grace, we cast ourselves on thee. Sustain us in the duties, and trials, and temptations of this day. Make thy grace sufficient for us. Send thy light forth to lead and guide us. Open thy hand wide and satisfy us with good, the good that we need for the life that now is, and the better blessings of the life to come. Forgive our sin; accept our thanksgiving; and send an answer to our prayer, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XXI.

O THOU that dwellest in the heavens, we lift our eyes to thee. At thy gracious command would we arise from the dust of earth, and send upward the affections of our souls to thy throne. We would awake at thy bidding from the sleep of worldliness, and seek even now to hold communion with the Father of our spirits. We have been cleaving to the dust. The God of this world hath blinded our minds, so that we have not seen thy glory. We have not known ourselves, nor thee. This day we have been living as if we were of the world. We have been seeking here our reward. We have sinned in this thing. We have broken our Lord's command. We have forgotten the one thing, and been cumbered by the many. O our Father, this is not our portion, it fadeth away. This is not our rest, it is polluted. Blessed be thy name that there is a better portion. Blessed be God for the hope he has given us of a rest that remaineth. Thanks be to God for all the high hopes he has held out to us in his word; thanks for the precious revelations contained in the word now read. In the light of thy word, O Lord, we would look up to the mansions which our Saviour has prepared for his own. We would learn to wean our affections from earth, and set them on those glorious things that are at thy right hand. But into thy presence nothing entereth that defileth, and we are unclean,—altogether vile; we are born in sin. Our iniquities have gone over our heads. Be merciful to us, O God. Create a clean heart. O thou who sittest on the throne, make all things in us new. By the mighty working of thy Spirit, make our souls meet for thy presence. We con-

fess ourselves impure ; we would learn to lament our impurity. We would mourn and be in bitterness, because of felt uncleanness. We would look to the Lamb of God. We would trust in his atonement. We would be clothed in his righteousness. Cast us not away, O God, from thy presence. Look on us now in love. The souls thou seest here still unbelieving, and in thy sight abominable, bring to the fountain opened, and purge away their sin. Look on those whom thou seest already in Jesus, and perfect that which concerneth them. Sanctify us wholly. Give us the hope, the hope well-founded, of a portion in the inheritance of thy saints. Bring us to Christ. Being brought to him, may we abide in him, and his word abide in us. Believing, may we be enabled also to rejoice in the Lord, and to show ourselves his by a conversation becoming his gospel. Our prayer, Lord, is before thee ; thou knowest our wants ; supply them out of thy fulness ; see us in the face of Jesus ; accept us in the Beloved, and to thy name we ascribe eternal praise. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.—MALACHI III. IV.

OUR Father in heaven, we worship thee ; preserved by thy power during the darkness of the night, we have assembled this morning to give thee the praise. In the enjoyment of life and all life's blessings, we desire to acknowledge with gratitude that all is the gift of thy hand. From thee, Father of lights, every good gift cometh down. We will trace thy goodness in the remembrance of the past, and we will depend on thee for the time to come. Sanctify our memories, that they may record thy wondrous works. Sanctify our whole nature, that we may live to thy glory. We praise thee, Lord, for thy word given, a light in the darkness. We praise thee for him whom the word reveals, Christ the Lord. Open our eyes to behold the wonders contained in thy word. May we see there the face of Jesus. Reveal thy Son to us, reveal thy Son in us. May the Spirit enlighten the eyes of our understanding to behold, in the glass of the word, the beauty of thine own Beloved ; may our affection be so sanctified that he shall be in our eyes the chief among ten thousand, and altogether lovely. O that this Jesus whom thou hast set up King in Sion, may be acknowledged King in our heart's affections. Thou, O Lord, hast exhibited thy love in Christ crucified. Let that love constrain us ; let thy love in the gospel overpower the opposition of our carnal minds, and melt our hard hearts. Lord, we have gone astray, let thy loving-kindness draw us ; draw us unto thyself. Holy Spirit, cease not thy striving until the enmity be subdued. Holy One, depart not from these hearts until thou hast made all things new ; until thou hast driven out the buyers and sellers that defile the temple, and set Jesus, our Lord, in the midst of the throne. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Let thy way be known on the earth. Let the people

praise thee, Lord, let all the people praise thee. O let the light which has arisen on us penetrate the thick darkness that covers many lands. Make the kingdoms of the world become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ. Give to thy Son the earth for his possession. Have mercy, Lord, on Israel, scattered and peeled. How long, O Lord, wilt thou cast off thy people whom thou hast redeemed? Will thy wrath burn forever more? Arise, O Lord, and have mercy on Zion. At last, O Lord, take away the blindness which hath happened unto Israel. Show them thy glory. Teach them to seek and to find thy glory in the face of Jesus. Let them see and flow together unto Zion; to him who is King in the palaces thereof. Save thy people, O God; bless thine inheritance. In the same Saviour let the Gentiles trust. Of Jew and Gentile make one adopted, redeemed family; make thy people willing in the day of thy power; let thy sons come from far, numerous as the dew of the morning. Let the people praise thee, O Lord, let all the people praise thee. And now, our Father, give us this day our daily bread; protect us from danger; guard us from temptation; help our infirmities. As we are preserved by thy power, enable us to live to thy glory. Forgive the sin of our holy things. Let our persons and services be accepted, and our prayer heard and answered, for the sake of Christ our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.—REVELATION XXII.

GOD Almighty, our Creator and Preserver, we again unite our hearts and tongues to give thee praise. We have been preserved another day; all our wants have been supplied. We would learn to receive all the common blessings of life as the good gift of a Father's hand. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us, and now we will stir up our souls to praise the Lord. Thou, God of our life, and length of our days, accept the tribute of our thanks. We have been cumberers of the ground, yet up to this moment we are not cut off. We recognize here the power of the Intercessor's prayer. Blessed Jesus, we owe our all to thee. Subdue our rebellious hearts that we may be wholly thine. King of Zion, reign over us. We desire now to open our mouths unto the Lord; we avouch the Lord to be our God. Lord, what wilt thou have us to do? Lord, teach us thy will, and enable us to do it. Our days and years are passing; passing into eternity, and alas, they bear engraven on them a testimony against us; we have not spent them aright; we have not been waiting for and hastening to the coming of our Lord. God and Father of our Lord Jesus, give us the spirit of adoption, make us thy children. Let it not be with any of us a name to live; renew and sanctify our souls. Make them meet for the inheritance. We give thee praise for the prospect of another sabbath of rest. We pray that thou wouldst preserve us this night, and spare us to the light of that

blessed day. Then raise our affections to thyself. O that we may know what it is to long for God, the living God, and desire to come and appear before him. Bring us to thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacle; bring us in faith to thine altar; give us a dependence on the one efficacious sacrifice thereon laid, to come unto God, and to find God gracious, and to account him our exceeding joy. We unite now, O Lord, to pray for all our brethren around; prepare a worshipping people for thy day of rest, and prepare a good word for a waiting people. Let those who minister in holy things be strong in the Lord, and speak boldly the whole of thy counsel. Knowing themselves the terror of the Lord, may they be faithful and urgent in persuading men. And O may many be persuaded. Holy Spirit, administering the covenant now on earth, persuade men to turn from the world to God. Thou who didst give the word, put forth thy power with the preaching of it in this land. Let it mightily prevail. Let thy work appear before us; revive us yet again. Add to the church souls saved. Let glory arise to God in the highest from many saints edified, and many sinners saved, through the preaching of the everlasting gospel. Again, O God of mercy, we commit the keeping of our souls to thee; we pray for pardon. Let not thy wrath lie on any soul worshipping here. Take away sin. O God, be reconciled to us through the death of thy Son. One thing we seek for, peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our waiting eyes are toward thee, O Lord; our hope is in Jehovah. O give the blessedness of the man whose trust is in the Lord. Bless us, even us, O our Father, with all spiritual blessings in Christ; and to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be honor, and glory, and power, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers for Particular Occasions.

SACRAMENTAL FAST-DAY—MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, by whose care and mercy we have been preserved throughout another night, and brought in peace and safety to the beginning of this day, inspire our hearts with deep-felt gratitude to thee. Show us the value of salvation, that, while we cordially praise thee for the common bounties of thy providence, we may specially celebrate the riches of thy saving grace. Convince us of our unworthiness and sin, that we may unfeignedly acknowledge ourselves to be less than the least of all thy benefits. Alas, O God, how numerous and how great have our transgressions been! We were shapen in iniquity, and are by nature the corrupt descendants of a fallen father. But we especially confess our actual violations of thy law. That law is holy, just, and good; and as our Creator, Governor, and Benefactor, thou art entitled to our absolute and unswerving obedience. But in ten thousand times ten thousand instances we have disobeyed thee. Thou knowest whether some of us are not even yet entirely alienated from thy service, and practically opposed to thine authority. And if any of thy professing worshippers here present have become new creatures in Christ Jesus, we acknowledge that by thy grace they are in this respect what they are, and that still they are miserably short of what they ought to be, of what they by this time might have been. Alas! that those who have tasted and seen that the Lord is gracious, should be so cold and lifeless in his service, and should do so little to promote his cause. And, alas! that any to whom thy law and gospel have been brought, should perversely violate the precepts and sanctions of the one, and resist the invitations and promises of the other. O God, regenerate unrenewed souls, sanctify thy believing people, and pardon all of us. We are called this day to confess our sins and implore forgiveness in the house of prayer. Grant that we may do so with true hearts. Render the approaching services eminently useful in showing us our own sinfulness, and in stirring us up to avail ourselves of that glorious provision which thou hast made, by Jesus Christ, for the pardon and salvation of the sinner. May thy ministers be enabled clearly and affectionately to exhibit alike the heinousness and danger of sin, and the value and all-sufficiency of the Saviour;

and may many impenitent and unpardoned sinners be led to flee from the one and to embrace the other. Bless the sacred exercises of this day to all who are about to sit down at the sacramental table. Do thou thyself prepare them, and grant that at the approaching solemnity this day's believing penitents may be thankful and happy guests. Hear us, God of mercy, in these our prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

SACRAMENTAL FAST-DAY.—EVENING.

O God, the day is thine, the night also is thine; and it becometh us morning by morning, and evening by evening, to celebrate thy praises and to ask thy blessing. We give thee thanks for all the benefits, whether personal or social, which we have this day received at thy hand, more especially for the continuance of those great religious privileges which, alas! we have often neglected and abused. Blessed be thy name for the special opportunities we have this day had of holding conference with thee, and of receiving instruction and consolation from thy word. O God, in the greatness of thy mercy we may trace the greatness of our own unworthiness and sin; and while we thank thee for the means of grace which this day has brought along with it, we implore thee to forgive our remissness in using them for the high and holy purposes which they are fitted to promote. With pardon give us penitence. Sanctify us also in the whole man, body, soul, and spirit. For the future may we avoid whatever thou hatest, and do whatever thou commandest. Cordially believing the doctrines of thy gospel, may we faithfully obey the precepts of thy law. May we adorn the doctrine of Jesus Christ by walking in all his commandments and ordinances blameless. Promote, we pray thee, the sanctification of our souls by the discipline of thy providence, the instructions of thy word, and the ordinances of thy worship. Follow with thy blessing our attendance this day in the house of prayer. Accept of the confessions, the praises, and the prayers which we professed to offer before thy throne; and grant that we may be led by what we have this day heard and done to cleave to Christ, to avoid sin, to practise holiness, and to love thy law. Bless our fellow-worshippers. May the sacred exercises in which they have been engaged prove to many of them a useful preparation for the solemn and delightful service of communion. Throughout the whole extent of our father-land cause knowledge, good order, and true religion to prevail. Guide and prosper thy servants in the holy ministry. May they rejoice to spend and to be spent for the best of Masters, and in the best of causes; and may they be encouraged to serve thee by seeing that their ministrations are eminently useful to immortal souls. May thy servants in the magistracy prove honored instruments of promoting social order and personal religion in the midst of us. O regenerate the earth. Make the world to believe on Jesus, and to worship thee. And now, Fa-

ther of mercies, we commit ourselves to thy guidance and protection. May we retire to rest, penitent for our sins, and thankful for thy great and continued kindness towards us. And if we are spared to engage in the business of another day, O may we spend it like true-hearted disciples of Christ, and children of God. Hear and answer us in peace and mercy, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

COMMUNION SABBATH.—MORNING.

MOST gracious God, thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our reconciled God and Father in him, help us on this the morning of a communion-sabbath to present ourselves before thee with hearts in the right frame, and in the lovely exercise of every Christian grace. We come in the name of Jesus to adore thee, that in thy special goodness toward us we have been spared to see the light of another sabbath, and that a sabbath set apart to show forth the love of Jesus in giving himself an atonement for our manifold transgressions. What thanks, what praise do we not owe thee, that in the midst of such deep unworthiness we have thus been dealt with; that when, in strict justice, we should this day in the place of woe have been drinking the cup of wrath, we are invited to thy table, there to drink the cup of salvation. O Lord, thou hast indeed dealt bountifully with us; O that our hearts were filled with an overpowering sense of thy love, and, while we would feel it in its depth and power, we would humble ourselves deeply before thee. We would acknowledge that a sense of thy love in Christ can alone break our hard hearts, and humble their proud spirit of self-sufficiency. Let the private prayers we have this morning offered in our closets, and those we now present before thee, be answered according to thine own gracious promises, and let the abundant love of Christ be shed abroad upon us through the grace of the Spirit, and thus let our hearts be drawn out in lowly confession of our great sinfulness and multiplied sins. In view of the solemn service before us, we would confess and deplore the original corruption of our nature. Thy holy law demands a holy heart, and we are guilty, we are defiled before thee, because we have brought into the world with us an evil heart, a heart alienated from thee, filled with the love of sin. We would confess and deplore the multitude of sins which have sprung from our cherishing this evil disposition. We have obeyed its impulses, and rebelled against thee, and have trampled ten thousand times on thy commandments, drowning the voice of conscience, resisting the strivings of thy Spirit, and putting away the solemn admonitions of thy holy word. Our sins are multiplied beyond number, and aggravated immeasurably beyond our imagination. We would lament that we have so multiplied our transgressions; and as we are to confess this day at thy table that thou wert righteous in demanding from our Surety full satisfaction for all our violations of thy law, we would

confess that it is righteous, and just, and good, that we are righteously condemned by it, and that we can see no reason why its dread sentence of condemnation should not now be executed, save that Jesus died, the just for the unjust, to bear our guilt, to satisfy thy justice, and reconcile thy law to us, and us to thy law. Nor would we less, in view of the solemn service of this day, confess and deplore our neglect of Jesus, our indifference to the precious offers of pardon and forgiveness in his blood. We would seek and implore grace to assist us in bewailing the littleness of spiritual desire which we have permitted the love of Jesus to awaken within us, and the cold indifference of heart with which we have so often met the boundless affection and compassionate tears of a crucified Redeemer. Gracious God, we know not what to say; our guilt in trampling on thy law is an evil of infinite offence, and deserving of dread vengeance. O what then must our guilt be in having so long rejected Christ, and shut our hearts against the offers of thy grace. We confess this guilt, we deplore it before thee, and implore forgiveness. We see no reason why we should not be shut out from an interest in Jesus; we can use no plea against thy sovereign justice making us a curse both now and when our Lord cometh, save the all-prevailing plea that sovereign grace hath put in our power, that Jesus died, the just for the unjust, to bring us sinners to God. Blessed be thy name, that we are assured this is a plea which thou wilt never refuse to own as prevailing and precious before thee. And while we regard the coming services of the day as a gracious means of edifying our souls in the faith, that thou art well pleased with us for Jesus' sake, and in him pacified towards us for all that we have done, we would confess and deplore our manifold provocations of thy gracious Spirit. O thou most gracious Spirit, we have met thy advances of love with rebellious opposition, and spurned thee by indifference and sin, and driven thee away by backsliding; and what can we say? We have no excuse; we feel that we love sin, and justly mightest thou leave us under its power, justly forsake us this day, and leave us to feel all the misery of a communion-sabbath that brings not with it thy refreshing and enlivening presence. But we beseech thee to acknowledge us in this our confession. We can use no plea save that which thou stirrest us up to employ, that Jesus died for us; pardon us for his sake, and be graciously present with us this day. O depart not from us, but accompany all the means of grace this day with thy blessing, that we may be refreshed. O most gracious God, we adore thee for this day. We praise thee for the blood of Jesus which cleanseth from all sin. We glorify thee for his finished work of atonement and righteousness, and for his ceaseless work of all-prevailing intercession. What love to put in our power so prevailing a plea! We would feel that we need none other. We would discharge every other plea whatsoever, save that which springs from the blood of Jesus and his spotless righteousness. We would feel that in having this, we have all that we need, and on the ground of this all-sufficient plea would we plead that this day, thy word, thy ordinances, and thy providence may work together for our spiritual advancement, our everlasting welfare, and thy glory. Gracious

Father, we implore thy holy keeping and guidance while in the house of prayer. If thy presence go not with us, carry us not up. But do thou carry us up, sustained by thy presence, and purified by thy Spirit, according to the purification of the sanctuary. Carry us up, relying by a living faith on the blood of Jesus, humbled to the dust under the united sense of thy love and our unworthiness; prepared to testify heartily before thee, before angels, before thy people, and before the world, that we have embraced Jesus, that we are resting steadfastly on him, and that we find him indeed precious to our souls. For this purpose strengthen, we pray thee, all our graces. Pour out upon us the grace of repentance. Let our hearts be broken and made contrite by beholding thy love in sparing not thine own Son; work in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power; elevate our love, draw it out into lively exercise, and do thou, the God of hope, fill us with hope and eager expectation, that we shall assuredly find thy table and its exercises sweet to our souls. We would unite our hearts to pray for thy servant our pastor, whom thou hast set to preside this day over the service, and for all whom thou mayest send to help him in the work. O Lord, enlarge the heart of thy ministering servant; give him to feel the unutterable preciousness of Christ, and to be concerned for the salvation of precious souls. Bring him up fully fraught with the spirit of the gospel, and rejoicing that he is commissioned to offer Jesus freely to us all. Let him be strengthened to set a full Christ before empty sinners, and helped to plead with them from the heart that they will accept of his salvation. In prayer be his mouth. Bring his petitions, his confessions, his thanksgivings from a full heart; and give us, thy servants, grace indeed from the heart to join in the public prayer. We pray for like mercy to those who are brought this day to assist thy servant, our pastor, in the work of dispensing the word and bread of life. May the Holy Spirit be shed abroad abundantly on them, and by them speak to us, and give us hearts to receive their message. Bless thy servants in the eldership; give them much of thy countenance, may thy Spirit hold them up, and may they find it sweet to deal forth the bread of life to thy people. Remember in mercy our fellow-worshippers. Strengthen such as are rejoicing to maintain their confidence in Christ, and may they indeed find Jesus all their salvation. Be gracious to any that are suffering from the oppression of spiritual darkness. Gracious God, dissipate the clouds of their sorrow, and reveal Christ to them, and convince them that thou art ready and waiting to be gracious to them for his sake. Be gracious to thy aged people, and to the young of the flock. May we all this day, severally and together, enjoy Christ. Be in the midst of all the worshipping congregations of thy people. Preside in them by the presence of thy Spirit. May many souls this day be brought to embrace Jesus; may many this day be edified by him. May thy name be hallowed, thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. O go forth with the preached gospel, and give the missionaries of the cross a mouth and wisdom to preach Christ crucified, so as to extend the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom, and multiply the number of

his redeemed. O God, we again implore the grace of thy Spirit to keep our heart and mind this day in thy fear, and to enable us in all our exercises and services to glorify thee; and the glory shall be to thee the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION SABBATH.—EVENING.

O LORD, we would again approach unto thy throne of grace, in the name of Jesus, to glorify thee for all the loving-kindness which thou hast vouchsafed to us this day. We have been in thy house, and there have we seen thy goings in thy sanctuary. We have been at thy table, and there have tasted the gladness wherewith thou makest glad the hearts of thy chosen. O most gracious God, we would acknowledge the greatness of the honor conferred upon us; that we, so unworthy, so guilty, so polluted, should be permitted to engage in a service so holy and exalted as that of showing forth the death of Jesus Christ. Glory be to thy holy name that thou hast spared us this day in peace, and crowned us with manifold blessings. Surely thou mightest have testified against us, and caused thine hot anger to burn against us because of our manifold sins. But thou hast been gracious for Jesus' sake. We are spared because he was not spared. We have enjoyed mercy and blessing because he has pleaded for us on the ground of his own righteousness. O most holy and most merciful Father, draw forth our hearts in thanksgivings, and while we feel thy love awakening our gratitude, help us to feel it binding on our hearts the obligations of duty. Help us from this day and forward to obey as thy children, not from a slavish fear of thy wrath as manifested against all disobedience and unrighteousness of men, but from the confiding love of reconciled children, who tremble indeed at thy judgments, but love thy commandments. Help us to count thy commandments not grievous, but righteous and holy. May we feel the yoke of Christ easy, his burden light, and feel that his love constraineth us to live no longer as they do who are dead in sin, but as those who are alive from the dead. Blessed Lord, permit us not to forget that we have this day at thy table renewed our obligations to be thine. May the memory of these be deeply engraven on our heart; may the weight of them be on the conscience, and while we feel constrained by the love of Jesus to yield to them, do thou supply ever-renewed strength to aid us in our obedience. Having tasted this day how sweet are the joys that Christ vouchsafes to the soul which seeketh him, and how pure are the pleasures that are administered by the Spirit of all grace, may we henceforth regard the loftiest joys of the world as insipid, and turn from its pleasures as below the notice of God's children. Again, we have set to our seal that thou art true, that Christ is precious, that we are bound to holiness. Graciously forbid that we should

backslide. Confirm us in the possession of Christ's constraining love, that love which moveth in our hearts, the love which fulfilleth the law. We lament that we have often vowed, and been found unfaithful. Our past backslidings testify against us, and wert thou to deal with us as we deserve, thou wouldst shut us out from Christ, and deny us the grace of thy Spirit. But do thou heal our backslidings. Put away all iniquity from us, receive us graciously, and love us freely, and put us in thy good and holy way, and keep us in it. O gracious God, we trust we have this day felt the preciousness of the broken and the contrite heart. It is thy gift and thy workmanship, and we pray thee to bestow it on us yet more and more. Humbly would we entreat thee to take away from us the hard and stony heart that is in our flesh, and give us an heart of flesh. O fulfil thy gracious promise to us. We would earnestly beseech thee to do as thou hast said, and put thy Spirit within us, and teach us to walk in thy statutes and do them. O that we may henceforth carry along with us the influence of this communion sabbath. May we long retain the memory of its sweetness, and seek by increasing holiness to fit ourselves the more for the eternal sabbath of communion with thee in glory. Gracious Lord, we would implore thee to accept of our thanksgivings for all the grace we have this day enjoyed. All our enjoyment, our rest in thy faithful promises, our satisfaction in thy ordinances, our views of Jesus and his cross, our exercise of faith, all, all, have come from thee, and to thee do we owe the acknowledgment. Let us not spend our gratitude in mere expression of words. Let it abide with us, and constrain us to live so as to manifest our thankfulness. We regret that our highest privileges here below so soon terminate, that our sweetest enjoyment is clogged by much carnality of feeling, and speedily closed by weariness of the flesh. Stir up our desires more actively, and lead us by deeper experience of the short-lived seasons of spiritual enjoyment here, to long the more ardently for that kingdom of glory where communion comes not to a close, where the weariness of the flesh is not felt. We bless thee for the aid vouchsafed to thy servants in the ministry who this day dispensed the ordinance of the Lord's Supper amongst us. In their services and in ours thou hast seen many sins, and much that thy pure eye cannot regard without being offended. Deal mercifully with us in respect of these sins. Remember them no more. Do thou, the good Lord, pardon us, and wash us from our filth and guilt in atoning blood and by sanctifying grace. May thy servants who have this day dealt forth to us the bread of life be themselves nourished. We thank thee in their behalf that they were strengthened for the work, and we thank thee in our own behalf that our eyes this day beheld our teachers. We bless thee for all the grace manifested to our fellow-worshippers. Thou hast been gracious to them. If any have been enlightened, thou hast opened their eyes to see Jesus, and turned their hearts to him. If any have rejoiced, thou hast awakened their joy. If any have found peace in resting on the blood of Jesus, thou of thy mercy hast made them to acknowledge and embrace its sufficiency. Be pleased, Lord, to accept our thanksgivings in their behalf. Visit

in thy mercy such as have come to thy table mourning, and have departed with a heavy heart. Convince them that the cause of their wretchedness is in themselves; that they are looking to their own sinful emptiness, and putting away Jesus from them. Bring them to him, and make them willing to embrace him as all-sufficient for them. And pardon, of thy mercy, such as have profaned the ordinance of the Supper. O lead us all to self-examination, that we may know how we have attended on it. Lay us not to rest, till we come to the blood of Jesus. Wash us from all the guilt of this day in that fountain, and clothe us in the robe of his righteousness, that we may lie down with confidence of thy forgiving grace. Follow with thy blessing the preaching of the gospel. O speed on the happy time when the pleasure and enjoyment of a communion sabbath shall be open not to one congregation here and there, but when all the earth shall enjoy the sabbath, even as all shall see the salvation of our God. Let Christ triumph this day among Jews and Gentiles. May the truth of his gospel have free course and be glorified. Hasten the triumph of the latter-day glory. And for this purpose pour out more largely of the spirit of revival at home, and grant a missionary spirit to us all, that we may give thee no rest till both among Jews and Gentiles the name of Jesus be known and published to the ends of the earth. Keep us graciously in thy fear, blot out our manifold sins, and answer these, our supplications, in peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TO BE USED BY A FAMILY WHEN VISITED WITH
- SICKNESS.

O LORD, our God, we desire to unite in blessing thee for the freedom of approach which we enjoy at all times to the throne of grace, through the atoning sacrifice of our merciful Redeemer; and we bless thee not only for the throne of grace, but also for the many encouragements we have through thy goodness to draw near in making known our requests. We give thee thanks, O God, that whilst thou dost permit us to call on thy name at all times, and in all circumstances, thou givest us special invitation to draw nigh in the season of distress, in saying, Call upon me in the day of trouble. And this, O most merciful God, is with us of this household a day of trouble, seeing thou art visiting us by the disease thou hast brought on one of our number. O God, we would say thy hand is upon us, thy hand is upon us, for we know that affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground, and that it is the Lord who maketh sore, and bindeth up; who woundeth, and whose hands again make whole. It is thy prerogative alone, O God, to say, See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no God with me; I kill and I make alive, I wound and I heal, neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. O Lord, seeing we are so powerfully reminded by the testimony of thine own oracles that

making sore and binding up, that the sending of disease and the removing it again, pertain unto thee and to no other, may we ever be prepared by thy grace to submit with all readiness to every chastisement by which thou mayest see fit to visit us. We especially entreat, in the present instance, that thy will as expressed in the visitation under which we are suffering at this time, may be affectionately accepted by us all as the rule of our duty. Whatever may be the issue of this trouble to our dear friend, as it respects life or death, may it issue in bringing us all nearer to the cross of him who died to save the perishing, and in preparing us to meet him with joy when he appears in the glory of his Father at the judgment-day. O Lord, have mercy upon us all in the trying circumstances in which we are placed, and as our several needs require. We rejoice to place ourselves in thy hands, for thou art acquainted with all our wants, and it is by thee alone they can be supplied. According to thy riches in grace do thou supply all that is lacking in us out of the abundant and inexhaustible fulness that is treasured up in our ever-blessed Redeemer. Visit especially, in the greatness of thy compassion, this afflicted one, and if consistent with thy heavenly will restore him [*her*] to health and strength, and other days of usefulness in the world. Rebuke the distemper which confines him [*her*] to the bed of languishing. Say unto him [*her*], O our Saviour, as thou didst of old to many who were diseased, Arise, thy sins are forgiven thee, take up thy bed and walk. If such mercy is yet in store for him [*her*] may he [*she*] never forget thy kindness and love; may he [*she*] never forget to praise thee for thine abundant goodness. May the language of all his [*her*] acting manifestly be, What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? But, O God, if death be in the cup; if indeed this sickness be unto death, prepare him [*her*] for going hence. Reveal thyself in mercy to his [*her*] soul, and give him [*her*] to enjoy the comfort of knowing that he [*she*] possesses an interest in thy love which is better than life. Quicken his [*her*] apprehensions with regard to all that pertains to salvation, so that every doubt and all distracting fear may be removed from his [*her*] mind, and thus in the pure light of Jehovah he [*she*] shall see light. O thou Shepherd of Israel, compass him [*her*] meanwhile as with a shield, and when he [*she*] walks through the valley of the shadow of death, be thou with him [*her*] to comfort him [*her*] by thy rod and thy staff, and to conduct him [*her*] safely to the mansions of everlasting bliss in the kingdom of heaven. Impart to him [*her*] every consolation of which he [*she*] stands in need, and say in mercy to his [*her*] soul, Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name, thou art mine: when thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee; for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour. Heavenly Father, do thou listen to the voice of our supplications in behalf of our afflicted friend, and listen when we supplicate thee in our own behalf. We cannot tell how soon we may be laid prostrate on the bed of disease and of death. We know that our fountain is in the dust, and that

we are crushed before the moth. O that this important truth were habitually remembered by us, and that we were also habitually to remember how it is that we have become so frail; how it is that we are so much exposed to disease, and so certainly exposed to the stroke of death. Lord, thou hast taught us in thy holy word to look for this root of bitterness in sin, for by sin death hath entered into the world. We all do fade as a leaf, because our iniquities like the wind have taken us away. Enable us therefore to look constantly to him who can take away sin itself; who can cleanse us from all our pollutions, and clothe us in those robes which have been made white in the blood of the eternal covenant. O may we put on Christ as we are entreated to do, and then we shall not be hurt of the second death. Under the shadow of his wings we shall find protection from every enemy, and at last we shall enter in safety that happy place where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. Lord, help us by the guiding influences of thy Holy Spirit to take comfort, amid all our troubles and afflictions, from these happy prospects. And to thee the Father, to thee the Son, to thee the Holy Ghost, be everlasting praise, world without end. Amen.

AFTER RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

O LORD, how excellent is thy name in all the earth; thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. When we contemplate the works of thy hands, and consider the magnificence of all that thou hast created, well may we say, What is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that thou visitest him? Yet thou condescendest to notice our guilty and fallen race, and nothing can occur to them without thy permission and appointment. The hairs of our heads are all numbered, and not even a sparrow can fall to the ground without our heavenly Father. Health, the greatest of temporal blessings, is thy gift; and sickness proceeds from thee, who art a gracious and merciful Father. Thou hast appointed to the children of men their lot here below, and thou hast said to them, Thus far shall ye go and no farther. None can go from thy Spirit, or flee from thy presence; none can escape thine observation, or avoid the wounds of those arrows which thou aimest. Blessed God, we this day appear before thee to take a review of our past life, and to pour out the feelings of grateful hearts in thy presence. The blessing of health was long enjoyed by us, but how little did we value it, and how sinfully and uselessly was it employed. It only led to the pleasures of the world; it was thoughtlessly wasted in securing this world's good things, which perish in the using; and in those gratifications and amusements which as they fly away leave their sting behind them. This precious blessing has been made subject to vanity, and has become the instrument of sin, instead of being the means of holy liv-

ing and of promoting thy glory. In consequence of the enjoyment of health, we were living in false security, unmindful of thee our God, and of the awful eternity that is before us: but thou hast been pleased to visit us with sickness, and to show us the value of the blessing which we had so grossly abused. The sorrows of death compassed us, and the pains of hell got hold on us, we found trouble and sorrow. It was then we said, In the cutting off of our days we shall go to the gates of the grave: we are deprived of the residue of our years. We said, we shall not see the Lord, even the Lord, in the land of the living; we shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world. But in the day of our trouble and calamity we called upon thee the Lord, and thou hearest our cry, and hast sent to us deliverance. Thou hast rebuked our distemper, so that it has fled from us, and by thy gracious dealings with us we still walk before thee in the land of the living. Now would we offer the tribute of thanksgiving and praise for all thy mercy and goodness, which we have experienced in these last days. Thou art the Physician of soul and of body, and it is thou who hast directed the physician's skill to those means by which the power of the disease raging in our body was subdued, and thou hast given thy blessing to the medicines which were employed, so that the sickness under which we labored was prevented from drinking up the springs of life. We would desire to praise the Lord, to give thanks to his name, to exalt him before the people, and to celebrate his loving-kindness in the congregation of his saints. The Lord bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. We will sing to the Lord, and talk of all his wondrous works. We are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies. Make us, O Lord, to see our former vileness in thy sight, and teach us how we may best devote our preserved lives to thy service. We would desire to live to thy praise, we would make known to others thy truth. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ would we give thanks to thee our heavenly Father; and every blessing that we need would we desire to receive through him who is the only channel of communication between heaven and earth. May we never forget thy loving-kindness, or any of the benefits which thou hast so graciously conferred; for thou hast healed our diseases, and redeemed our lives from destruction. The vows which we have made on a sick-bed, help us faithfully to pay. On former occasions we have vowed, but have not paid; we have made good resolutions, and have failed to carry them into effect; we have made professions of amendment, but they have passed away unheeded as the morning cloud or the early dew. But now, in thy strength, we earnestly desire to pay our vows, and to keep our resolutions, and to practise what we have professed. May we now be enabled to produce in our conduct and conversation the peaceable fruits of righteousness, and may we be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Save us from the deceitfulness and desperate wickedness of our hearts, and may we never again be found in the paths of folly and of sin. We recommend to thy pity and compassion all who are in sickness and distress. Draw near to them in the hour of trouble, and visit them with thy salvation. May those who are appointed to live be speed-

ily restored to wonted health and strength; and for this purpose bless all the means which may be used for accomplishing that end, and prepare the dying for their great and awful change. May the living lay to heart this solemn truth, that death awaits them, and no one can tell how soon this summons may be put into their hands. O that this thought may bring men to sober reflection, and may it lead them to seek their refuge in the gospel. May Christ be discovered as an all-sufficient Saviour. May the period soon come when Jew and Gentile shall know Christ, and be found in him, and O that true religion may more and more prevail. Bless the families of our land, and may family religion greatly abound. May the head of the house be also its priest. These, our thanksgivings and prayers, we now present; may the sins of our holy services be forgiven, and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

APPROPRIATE TO THE DEATH OF A RELATIVE OR FRIEND.

O God, in this, the time of our bereavement and distress, we betake ourselves to thee. Receive us graciously, and hearken to our feeble but imploring cry. For wise and holy reasons thou hast taken from us the desire of our eyes with a stroke. Dispose us to say with meek and thankful submission to thy will, The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. We acknowledge that this dispensation is righteous and merciful on thy part; O may it be rightly understood, and practically applied on ours. May it show us the evil of sin, with which sickness, and suffering, and death, are all so intimately connected. May it show us the insufficiency of the creature, and the need we have of a better than an earthly portion. May it show us the value of the Saviour, and the infinite importance of having a personal and vital interest in him. O God, be thou thyself our reconciled Father. Protect us by thy power, and guide us by thy counsel. Like as a father pitieth his children, so do thou pity us. Amidst all the losses and afflictions of our lives may we have good reason to believe that thou art treating us with paternal care, that thou art training us by paternal discipline; and in the issue of all, may each one of us have cause to say, It is good for me that I was afflicted. Meanwhile, O God, we feel, may we also bear, the rod. By this bereaving stroke may we be warned and admonished. Yet, Abba, Father, console us under it. O give us the comfort of thine exceeding great and precious promises. Many of thy servants hast thou cheered in circumstances similar to ours, and even on the gloomy grave thy gospel has shed celestial light. We thank thee for that blessed gospel. We thank thee for the Saviour it sets forth. We thank thee for the blessings it offers and reveals. Christ has abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light; and them that sleep in Jesus wilt thou, O

God, bring with thee. Meekly and thankfully, therefore, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may we leave in thine everlasting arms our pious friends departed, rejoicing to believe that their souls are at rest in paradise, and that hereafter, in their case, that which is sown in weakness, shall be raised in power; that which is sown in corruption, shall be raised in glory; that which is sown a natural body, shall be raised a spiritual body: and so shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting! O grave, where is thy victory! The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who giveth to his saints the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. O may we all be prepared to die. May each of us have good cause to say, For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. And may the departure of relatives and friends powerfully and practically remind us that time is passing away, that eternity is rushing on, and that, when a few years are come, we shall all have left the world in which, amidst the ravages of death, our lives have heretofore been lengthened out. God of comfort, console our hearts; God of holiness sanctify our souls; Father of mercies, hear our prayers: and all through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for sinners and rose again, and to whom be ascribed blessing and honor forever and ever. Amen.

ON THE FUNERAL-DAY OF A FRIEND OR A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

O ALMIGHTY Parent of the universe, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we, thy frail, guilty, erring creatures would prostrate ourselves before thee with the most profound humility and holy awe. We feel our unworthiness to approach the Divine Majesty, but thou in mercy encouragest us to draw near, and through the gracious Mediator to come to thy throne of grace with the confidence of children to a father. There we are privileged to unbosom and unburthen our souls; there we may implore of thee mercy to pardon and grace to help us. On this day of heaviness to this household, we would recognize and bow before thee as the righteous Sovereign of the universe, as the uncontrolled Disposer of all events. Thou dost according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. Thou pullest down one, and thou raisest up another; thou woundest and healest; thou killest, and makest alive. With thee are the issues of life and of death, none can stay thy hand, nor may any say to thee, What doest thou? While we acknowledge thy absolute right to do with us and to us as thou, Lord, seest fit, we know and are persuaded that thou reignest in righteousness, that thou dost all things wisely and well, and that however trying thy dispensations, and however inscrutable thy dealings may be, yet jus-

lice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, mercy and truth go before thy face.

Thou, O righteous Father, hast been pleased in thine adorable sovereignty to take away from us the desire of our eyes with a stroke, to rob us of one who was dear to our souls; yet, Lord, let us not refuse to be comforted, prevent us from murmuring and repining under thy chastening rod. Teach us to acquiesce in thy righteous dealings, help us in the sincerity of our hearts to say, The will of the Lord be done; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. This lesson, O Lord, we feel is very hard to learn. We cling to what is created, we cleave to the dust, we feel reluctant to part with the objects of our affection even at thy call. Do thou, gracious God, thyself teach us; teach us heartfelt submission, teach us holy resignation, teach us in patience to possess our souls. Lord, prevent us from fainting when we are rebuked of thee. But, O Lord, while we lament our present bereavement, let us never lose sight of the cause of all our woes. We would ever bear in mind that it is sin that has robbed us of thy favor, robbed us of thine image, and robbed us of those friendships that sweeten the cup of life; and, therefore, when thou dost thus contend with us, and afflict us, we will justify thee in thy dealings, and clear thee when thou judgest and triest us. And, O Lord, while we bewail sin's ravages, enable us to lament sin's guilt and defilement; soften these hard hearts of ours; give us, each one, to feel the plagues of his own heart; open up within us the sources of godly sorrow, that we may weep, and lament, and be in bitterness because of sin, of our own sins. Take away, we beseech thee, the guilt of sin through the blood of atonement, deliver from the love and the power of sin by the effectual working of thy Holy Spirit.

What cause have we, O Lord, to rejoice and be thankful, that while we mourn for sin, and mourn on account of personal distress and domestic bereavements, we are not left to mourn like those who have no hope, left to mourn in despair. This might have been our portion, and must, O holy Father, have been our portion, hadst thou dealt with us after our sins, or rewarded us according to our iniquities. We might have been justly allowed to eat the fruit of our doings without deliverance, without hope, to live in misery, and to die in misery. We might have been permitted to regard death as the extinction of our being, or the harbinger of woe unutterable; to look to the grave as man's eternal resting-place, or the threshold to the abode of misery. But blessed, forever blessed be thy name, we are not left to die in our sins, to perish without a remedy. Thou hast looked upon us and pitied us. Thou hast sent the Son of thy love to seek and save that which was lost, to redeem our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling; and by his precious blood, by his all-perfect righteousness, by his life and by his death, to bring salvation and consolation near to us, to restore our lost privileges and our forfeited hopes. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift! What is man that thou takest knowledge of him! And we would adore and bless thee, O gracious God, for the revelation of mercy, the gospel of salvation, the words of eternal life

O what precious promises, what soothing consolations, what glorious prospects, what ennobling hopes are ours through the mediation of thine own Son, as made known to us in the gospel of peace! Now we know that there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus; now we know that nothing, neither earth nor hell, neither life nor death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus; now we know that the sting of death is taken away, that the dominion of the grave is overthrown; now life and immortality are brought to light; now we are begotten to the lively hope of an inheritance that is incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. O thou Spirit of all grace and consolation, thou divine Comforter, do thou in this day of tribulation, when our spirits are disquieted and cast down, draw near thyself to comfort us, bring the promises of thy word to bear on our circumstances, give us by faith to lay hold on them, to meditate, to feed upon them; give us to feel their soothing influence, their consoling power, their sustaining efficacy. We do find that man's help is vain in those dark and trying hours of life, do thou thyself uphold us; we do find that the consolations of the world reach not the wounded spirit with effect, do thou thyself refresh and comfort us with thine own consolations; Lord, withdraw us from the stream, carry us up to the fountain! When we are ready to faint in our minds, help us to consider him who endured the contradiction of sinners against himself.

We give thee thanks, O Lord, for that support thou wast graciously pleased to vouchsafe to the departed during his [*her*] season of affliction, for the patience that possessed his [*her*] soul when thy chastening hand was laid upon him [*her*], for the views that were opened up to him [*her*] of Christ and his salvation, for the firm hold he [*she*] was enabled to take of the covenant of peace, and for the calmness, and tranquillity, and good hope with which he [*she*] was enabled to commend his [*her*] spirit into the Redeemer's hands. And, Lord, we bless thee for the support and consolation that has been administered to surviving relatives under the blow of thy hand. Though lover and friend thou hast put far from us, and our acquaintance into darkness, yet thou hast enabled us, and thou art now enabling us to sing of mercy in the midst of judgment; to feel that the same hand that lays us low, does indeed hold us up; that while tribulation abounds, the consolations of God do much more abound; and bowing to the sovereignty of Jehovah, yet adoring the wisdom, the rectitude, the mercy, and the love of him that rules on high, thou art enabling us in faith to say, Though the Lord should slay me and mine, yet will I trust in him.

And now, Lord, continue to be gracious to us. Hold us up and support us when we leave the house of mourning, and go forth to perform the last melancholy duty, and commit the mortal remains of our beloved friend to the cold mansion of the dead, the house appointed for all living. Even at the grave's mouth may we be cheered by the gracious declaration of the Redeemer: I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. Because I live ye shall live also. And, O Lord, though we do feel the pang of separation, do thou cheer us by the

assured hope that that separation is not forever; and though the grave has received and conceals from our view the ashes of one whom we loved so tenderly, yet let us be comforted by the thought that such as fall asleep in Jesus, die only to live, and live to die no more; that death's reign and the grave's triumph shall be of short endurance; that this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, and that the ransomed of the Lord shall return to the Sion above, and shall be forever with the Lord. And, Lord, help us to improve this trying dispensation of thy providence. O let us who remain remember that there is nothing but a step betwixt us and death; that we too soon shall be numbered with the dead, and that the voice thus addresses us this day, Be ye also ready. Help us then, O gracious God, to be living near to thee, to be living much in heaven. Raise our views and our affections above all the emptiness of time, and enable us to live by faith in the unseen realities of eternity. O give us to feel that we are nothing but pilgrims and strangers in this world. May we be ever rising above it, and living above it, and may we be habitually looking forward to, and ripening for the rest that remaineth for the people of God. All our appointed time we would be waiting till our change come. And, O Lord, grant that when that solemn period shall arrive, we may have nothing to do but to commit our spirits into the hand of him who gave them, and to fall asleep in Jesus. And now, Lord, we give ourselves wholly up to thee, fit us for every duty, and prepare us for every trial, guide us by thy counsel while here, and afterwards receive us to glory. And to thee the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, we would ascribe everlasting praise. Amen.

ON THE MORNING OF THE MARRIAGE OF A FEMALE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

OUR Father in heaven, we would together approach thy throne of grace this morning gratefully to acknowledge the multitude of thy mercies, and to implore the continuance of thy loving-kindness. Blessed be thy great name, that in the riches of thy grace thou hast made the amplest provision for our immortal souls. As being guilty and defiled, they do indeed deserve to perish; but thou hast given thy beloved Son to be our Saviour, and hast addressed to us in thy word, the overtures of reconciliation. In great condescension hast thou invited us to enter into the nearest and tenderest relation to thyself, and plied us with every consideration most fitted to win our confidence and love. O that thou wouldst effectually persuade us all to make an unreserved surrender of ourselves, and to join ourselves unto thee in a perpetual covenant not to be forgotten. Do thou betroth us unto thee in righteousness, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies; and let us enjoy the safety, and blessedness, and

honor of those to whom it is said, Thy Maker is thy husband, the Lord of hosts is his name.

We would unite, O God, in praising thee for the arrangements which thou hast made for the peace and good order of society, and for the innumerable mercies which thy providence is daily pouring down on the path of our pilgrimage. Do thou help us in all our ways to acknowledge thee, that our steps may be directed aright; and shed abroad thy love in our hearts, that all the events which befall us, and all the changes in our lot may work together for our good. On this day would we in a special manner implore thy blessing. Thou wast pleased to institute in paradise the conjugal relation; and the celebration of a marriage was graced by the presence, and honored by the first miracle of our incarnate Lord. Now, therefore, that we have the prospect of having this ordinance observed amongst ourselves, we entreat that thou wouldst cause thy blessing to rest upon the head of her who is this day to be separated from her brethren, and enrich her with all precious things. Be very gracious to both the parties who are about to be united in wedlock. Let them be helpers of one another's joy, and live together as heirs of the grace of life. Grant that, like Zacharias and Elizabeth, they may be both righteous before the Lord, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless; and that they may so spend the time of their sojourning here below, as to be prepared for spending a blessed eternity together in that more perfect state of being, where they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are all as the angels of God.

Do thou fit us, Lord, for all the duties and trials to which we are respectively called. To the Saviour may we be united by a living faith. To him may we abide faithful even unto death. And so may we live at all times, that when the cry is made, Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him, we may be found with our lamps filled and trimmed, and may be honored to go in ere the door is shut, and to sit down at the marriage-supper of the Lamb.

Heavenly Father, be our guide and guardian during the day. Take charge of all that concerns us. And O do thou grant that whatever changes come over us, we may enjoy thine unchanging friendship; and that to whatever separations we may be subjected, we may still be united in the bonds of the everlasting covenant. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

ON THE BIRTH OF A CHILD.

LET us have grace imparted to us, most holy and most merciful God, that on this occasion we may be enabled to encompass the footstool of thy throne with the sentiments which become thy faithful and grateful worshippers. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and

forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all our iniquities; who healeth all our diseases; who redeemeth our life from destruction; who crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. We lift up to thee, O God, our humble tribute of praise for all thy goodness manifested to us on this occasion. Our hearts give thanks to thee for the member thou hast added to our family, and for the life thou hast spared to us. In the midst of dangers which no knowledge of man could detect, and no power of man avert, thou hast watched over us, and brought us through the hour of trial in safety, and permitted us in the land of the living once more to offer up our gratitude to thee. Thou hast delivered our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Blessed and holy Father, may the impressions which we now feel be permanent, and the thanksgiving we now render be evidenced in our conduct; that we may devote our lives to the service of that God in whom we live, and move, and have our being. May the same kind providence which watched over this family still continue to bless us. And as thou hast heard our prayers, and brought us thus far in peace, hear us again when we implore that she whom thou hast thus mercifully dealt with may continue to experience much of thy favor, till in due time she is raised in strength, more resolutely determined than ever to live not to herself but to the God who redeems her. Take the child, with which thou hast been pleased to bless us, under thine especial care and favor. From this very hour sanctify him [*her*] to thyself. Amidst all the dangers of youth, amidst all the evils of this world, amidst all the snares and temptations which beset the human path, do thou guide and protect him [*her*], till having served thee on earth, the purposes of thy providence being accomplished, he [*she*] may be a member of the household of faith, and meet at last with the whole family of God in heaven. Thou knowest, O God, all that lies between the cradle and the grave; and therefore to thee would we dedicate our offspring, imploring thy favor, which is life; and thy loving-kindness, which is better than life. If thou shalt be pleased in thy wise yet dark providence to take him [*her*] away ere the years of maturity shall have been reached; if he [*she*] shall fall a victim to some of the diseases to which the young are exposed, O give us grace to part with those thou hast given in the spirit of Christian resignation. May we hold lightly by all the things of this earth, so that at thy command we may easily let them go, saying in faith, It is the Lord that gives, and the Lord that takes away, and blessed be his holy name. May we who are placed in the important situation of parents, hear thy voice at this hour saying, Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy reward. Grant us grace, O Father, to act as becometh us, so that having trained up our children in the path of Christ, at the great day of accounts we may be enabled to say, Lord, here are we and the children whom thou hast given us. Hear us graciously, thou hearer of prayer, and grant us an answer in peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FOR THE USE OF PARENTS ABOUT TO DEDICATE A
CHILD TO GOD IN BAPTISM.

HELP us, Almighty Father, to approach thee on this occasion with those feelings of mind with which thy worshippers should be filled. To thee, O God, do we lift up our souls, imploring that thou wouldst graciously listen to our requests, and for the sake of thy Son grant us an answer in peace.

Blessed be thy great name for the institution of the ordinance of the gospel, whereby thou art instructing the people in the things which concern eternity. We praise thee for the appointment of the sacraments, which thou hast constituted as seals to the covenant thou hast made with us through Jesus Christ. We praise thee for thy goodness in permitting us to engage in these ordinances and to enjoy these sacraments; and we implore that thou wouldst make them to us the power of God and the wisdom of God for the salvation of our souls.

In a very especial manner would we bless thee that thou art affording to us the privilege of the ordinance of baptism, therein to dedicate our offspring to thee. Help us, O Lord, to entertain those sentiments, and O form those resolutions and cherish those feelings which become Christian parents on an occasion so solemn and interesting. Give us proper and spiritual views of the nature of the ordinance, and through the symbols and signs employed, help us to discern the blood of Christ shed for the remission of sins, and the influences of the Holy Spirit, which alone can cleanse us from all our iniquities. And when we witness the water sprinkled, may we think of the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness, and seek with our whole heart and soul that inward purification which washing therein can alone give.

We are now about to dedicate our child to thee. It was from the Lord we received him [*her*], and in thus blessing us with offspring we would desire to hear thy voice as if speaking to us in this act of thy providence, and saying, Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy reward. Thou art the God of all. The souls of the parents and the souls of the children are thine; we therefore present our child to thee a living sacrifice, and we pray that it may be holy and acceptable. May he [*she*] be sanctified to thyself, and made one of thine own, even from this very hour. Deeply impressed with a sense of the solemn duty we are about to perform, and of the solemn engagements under which we are about to come, we would seek to be spiritually exercised while thus employed. And as thou hast encouraged us to bring our little children to thee, we would implore, O blessed Saviour, that thou wouldst take up this child in the arms of thy power and grace: put thy hands upon him [*her*] and bless him [*her*]. May this child be one of the lambs of thy flock, whom thou wilt bear in thine arms, and carry in thy bosom, watching over his [*her*] welfare through time, protecting from trouble,

guarding from temptation, guiding by thy grace and counsel in the ways of truth and holiness, till at last thou bringest him [*her*] to that place where thou leadest thy people unto fountains of living waters. Oh, let us now be in the Spirit; with humble yet grateful hearts may we engage in this solemn service; and may the prayer we now offer, and the prayer of the church to be offered for us and our offspring, rise up before thee as the incense of a sweet-smelling savor. And may our persons and our services be accepted, for Christ's sake Amen.

FOR THE USE OF PARENTS AFTER HAVING DEDICATED A CHILD TO GOD IN BAPTISM.

IN the goodness of thy providence, O Lord, we have been permitted to present our child to thee in the sacrament of baptism, and to receive for him [*her*], the sign of his [*her*] admission among the members of the visible church. The promise is to us and to our children, and therefore we entreat thee to make good thine ancient covenant, and be the God of believers and of their seed forever. Oh, hear the prayers which the assembled church offered up on this solemn occasion; and deny not thy grace and blessing to us or our child. We have now solemnly pledged that we will bring him [*her*] up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, doing all that in us lies to teach him [*her*] to remember his [*her*] Creator in the days of his [*her*] youth. But Oh, thou knowest how feeble and fleeting are the best of human resolutions; how soon the remembrance of vows and promises is forgotten, amidst the business or temptations of life: and therefore our prayer is, that thou wouldst deepen the impressions we presently feel, and strengthen the resolutions we presently form, and help us by thy grace to act in accordance with our solemn engagements. And while we thus endeavor to use the means, do thou, O God, grant thy enriching blessing; pour out thy Spirit upon our seed, and thy blessing upon our offspring, that they may spring up as willows by the water courses, and grow in grace and religious knowledge as they increase in stature and strength.

We would renew our supplications on behalf of the child we have now dedicated to thee in baptism. Known to thee, O God, are all things from the beginning to the end. While we are ignorant of the various events which may befall him [*her*], between this and the grave, we would desire, in faithful confidence, to commend him [*her*] to thee and the word of thy grace. Oh, permit not any evil to befall him [*her*] by the way. Amidst all the troubles incidental to youth, do thou be with him [*her*]; when he [*she*] walks through the waters, may they not overwhelm him [*her*], and through the fires may the flame not kindle against him [*her*]. Spare him [*her*] Oh Lord, if it be thy holy will, till in the days of our old age our eyes be gladdened by seeing him [*her*] walking in the ways of thy commandments. When temptations assail, those temptations to which youth

are so peculiarly exposed, be thou his [*her*] upholder, strengthening against every enemy, raising above every difficulty, and guiding amidst every snare, supporting under every trial, and causing all these to work for good; till having completed all the purposes of thy providence here he [*she*] may be taken home at last to the mansions of glory. Or, if thou hast determined that his [*her*] existence here is to be short and fleeting, and that he [*she*] should be called away in infancy or youth, Oh, may we in that trying hour remember the deep solemnities of this; and then, in the spirit of Christian resignation give him [*her*] up to thee, the God to whom we have this day devoted him [*her*]. Hear us, O God, in heaven, thy dwelling-place; and when thou hearest, graciously answer and forgive, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

ON PARTING WITH RELATIONS GOING TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

ALMIGHTY Father, we give thee thanks and praise that we are permitted to kneel together once more around the family altar, to ming'le our voices in praising thee, to listen to thy holy word, and to pour out our hearts before thee. Lord, we pray that we may carry all our griefs and all our joys to thee. In everything enable us by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to make our requests known unto thee. Help us to look so directly to Jesus, to wash so thoroughly in his blood, to put on so fully the white raiment of his righteousness, that we shall have access with confidence by the faith of him. May there be no distance between us and thee, no cloud between our soul and thy pardoning smile. May we feel that our sins, which are many, are forgiven us. May we feel thine eye resting upon us in love. Help us to spread out all our sorrows, all our anxieties, all our wants before thee in this time of need.

We praise thy holy name for all the mercies thou hast poured down upon us from the first day until now. Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with his benefits, even the God of our salvation. O that our souls might bless thee, and not forget any of thy benefits. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but thou hast never suffered us to want any good thing; thou hast given us daily bread; thou hast provided raiment; thou hast made our cup to run over; thou hast made the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. We thank thee for every domestic blessing we have enjoyed together; for every smile of thy providence upon our dwelling; for all the joys of home and of kindred, thy holy name we praise. How wonderfully thou hast dealt with us! How many families thou hast afflicted from morning to evening, stroke upon stroke, and wave upon wave; but thou hast been very pitiful toward us, as a father pitieth his children.

We thank thee for all the afflictions we have passed through to-

gether. It has been good for us that we were afflicted. Before we were afflicted we went astray, but now we have kept thy word. O that we were wise, and would observe these things, that we might understand the loving-kindness of the Lord. But most of all we bless thee, O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that thou hast blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ; that thou hast chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before thee in love. Ah Lord! it would be a painful parting this day if we were to separate for eternity; but we do bless thee for as many of us as thou hast made one in Christ Jesus, and for the sweet assurance that we shall never be separated in the world to come.

We confess the sins we have committed together; we have been most unfaithful to thee and to one another. Ah Lord! we remember this day how little we have cared for one another's souls; how much of our time together we have misspent; how many precious opportunities we have neglected; how little we have warned, entreated, comforted, and exhorted one another; how little we have been like Andrew, who brought his own brother to Jesus; how little we have lived together, as we shall wish we had done when we stand before the great white throne. It would be a righteous thing in thee to make this day of our parting a cloudy and dark day, a day of trouble, and rebuke, and desperate sorrow. But thou hast not dealt with us as we have sinned, neither rewarded us according to our iniquities. As the heaven is high above earth, so great has been thy mercy toward us. As far as east is from from the west, so far hast thou removed our transgressions from us.

Almighty Father, we now commit ourselves and one another into thine everlasting arms, for time and for eternity. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so be thou round about our souls from henceforth and forever. In an especial manner we now commit to thee those dear ones who are now with us, but soon to be parted from us. Thou didst give them to us at the first; thou hast made them sweet and pleasant to us. We have gone together to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with the multitude that kept holy day. And now, in thine all-ruling providence, thou art calling us to separate, help us to say, The will of the Lord be done; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Watch over them, O Lord, by night and by day. When they go from one nation to another, suffer no man to do them wrong; yea, reprove kings for their sakes. Suffer not their foot to be moved. Thou that keepest them will not slumber. Thou keepest Israel, thou dost neither slumber nor sleep. Be thou, O Lord, their keeper. Be thou their shade upon their right hand. Let not the sun smite them by day, nor the moon by night. O Lord, preserve them from all evil. Preserve their souls. Preserve their going out and coming in, from this time forth and even for evermore. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given to Christ, that they all may be one. We pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

We pray for those that remain behind, that thou wouldest make up for all thou takest away. Art thou not more to us than ten sons?

Thou only art the fountain of living waters. When thou takest away the streams, may we come the more to thee. However far separated, O our Father, grant that we may all be branches of the true vine, filled with the same spirit, bearing the same holy fruit. Far from one another, may we be equally near to thee. May we lean on the same beloved coming up out of this wilderness; may we walk in the same narrow way that leadeth unto life; may we kneel together on the same footstool. Washed in the same precious blood, may we draw near to the same heavenly Father, and obtain the same blessings for ourselves and for one another. Enable us to fill up the short time that remains in the service of Jesus. Help us to confess Jesus before men, that he may confess us before thee, his Father, in heaven. Keep us from denying Christ before men, lest he deny us before thee, his Father, in heaven. And may we all be found at the right hand of Jesus, in that awful day when he shall separate the nations as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And may we hear him saying to all of us, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. If we are never to meet together on earth any more, grant, O our Father, that we may meet in that day to cast our crowns together at the feet of Jesus, and to sing, Worthy is the Lamb! And now, we commend one another to thee, and to the word of thy grace, which is able to build us up, and to give us an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with our spirits. Amen.

FOR A FAMILY ABOUNDING IN WEALTH.

O LORD, thou art the giver of all good. From thee cometh down every good and perfect gift. It is thine to endow with wealth, or subject to poverty. And in all the allotments of thy providence thou dost what is right. It has pleased thee, in thy great mercy, to bestow upon us, thine undeserving and sinful creatures, a goodly portion of the blessings of this life. May they never be a snare to our souls, nor be suffered to estrange our hearts from thee. O Lord, enable us ever to remember that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. May we continually feel that poverty, with the divine favor, is better than riches where thy blessing is not. Help us to bear in mind how transitory is all earthly good. May we never count it our treasure. May we be independent of it, and ready to part with it at thy call, knowing that riches make to themselves wings and fly away. And while we possess them, enable us, O Lord, to consider through whom we have obtained them, even through the worthiness and intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enlighten us to see that all blessings, temporal as well as spiritual, are the purchase of his death, and secured by the covenant of grace. May we thus not only enjoy them, but may we enjoy Christ in them. May they continually serve as memorials

of his love, and excitements to obedience. And while we own that we have received all we possess out of his pure and undeserved mercy, may we cheerfully contribute of our substance to such ends as are agreeable to his will. Cause us ever to be sensible that wealth is a talent for which we must render a strict account. Lord, forbid that it should harden our hearts, but may we so employ it as to cherish the habits of generosity and benevolence. May the mind that was in Christ be in us, and may we delight in doing good. As we have received freely, may we be enabled to give freely. We know that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and we pray that we may be such. Enable us to make to ourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness. And bless all those with spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus, whose temporal wants we seek to relieve. Sanctify their poverty, and sanctify our wealth. And grant that both they and we, when our earthly course is ended, may be admitted to the enjoyment of an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. We ask all for Christ's sake. Amen.

IN A TIME OF POVERTY.

WE will bless thee, O Lord, at all times. Thy praise shall be continually in our mouth. Our soul shall make her boast in thee; the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. Truly thou art good to Israel, to such as are of a clean heart. Thou hast been our hope; O Lord God; thou hast been our trust from our youth up. We are as a wonder unto many, but thou art our strong refuge. How wonderful has been the way by which thou hast brought us! Thy way toward us has been in the sea, and thy path in the deep waters; and thy footsteps are not known, yet thou hast led us like a flock. Thou hast done all things well. How amazing has been thy love in visiting our souls, when so many have their good things in this life, and are stumbling over their riches into eternal misery. How shall we praise thee that though thou hast brought us low in the things of this world, thou hast made us rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom. O Lord, we feel it would be no profit if we had gained the whole world and lost our own soul. Teach us to praise thee, that in taking away from us earthly comforts, thou hast given us wine and milk without money and without price, even the sure mercies of David. We thank thee that we feel the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus sweeter than all the world. Thy smile is better to us than the smile of all the creatures. There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. Thou hast put gladness in our hearts, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

We are less than the least of all thy mercies. We are not worthy that thou shouldst come under our roof. We know that thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness thou hast afflicted us. We

are like a beast before thee. We were shapen in iniquity, and in sin did our mother conceive us. Every particle of matter obeys thy holy will. Every created being, except ourselves and devils, serves thee alone. We only live contrary to thee. Every power of our body and mind is naturally at enmity to thee. We have no right to anything but wrath, condemnation, and curse. Lord, humble us under a sense of our vileness, and teach us to flee to the Lord Jesus Christ. May we be found in him, and in him obtain the children's bread and daily mercies according to our need.

Lord, we remember the grace of the Lord Jesus, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor; may this make us contented to be poor. We remember that he had not where to lay his head; may this make us thankful for our humble lodging. We remember that others ministered to him of their substance; may this take its sting from our poverty. Make us feel it enough for the disciple to be as his master, and enough for the servant to be as his lord.

We pray for near access to thee in this time of need. When thou takest away our broken cisterns, may we come near to the fountain. When thou showest us the emptiness of the creatures, lead us to the fulness of the Creator. When we have little of the bread of this life, may we have much of the bread of God which came down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. May we feel so accepted in the beloved, so completely thine, that we shall have no anxiety for to-morrow. Thou art able to supply our need. Thou art able to strengthen us to bear our want. Thou that didst not spare thine only-begotten Son, wilt thou not with him also freely give us all things? Help us to behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet thou, our heavenly Father, feedest them. Make us feel that in Christ Jesus we are much better than they. Help us to consider the lilies of the field, which toil not, neither do they spin; and yet, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. O thou who clothest the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, make us feel that thou wilt much rather clothe us though we are of little faith. O our heavenly Father, who lovest us better than we love ourselves, thou knowest that we have need of all these things. Make us seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and let all these things be added unto us. Keep us without carefulness. Make us cast all our care upon thee, for thou carest for us.

O Lord Jesus, we remember in the days of thy flesh thou hadst compassion on the multitudes because they had nothing to eat, and thou wouldest not send them away fasting lest they should faint by the way. Thou didst take the seven loaves and give thanks, and brakest them, and gavest to the disciples, and they to the multitude, and all did eat, and all were filled. Lord Jesus, thou art the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever. Have compassion upon us. Give us this day our daily bread. O Lord, thou didst say by the mouth of thy servant David, that the young lions may lack and suffer hunger, but that they that seek thee shall not want any good thing. Do as thou hast said. Let this promise be yea and amen

to us in Christ Jesus. Supply all our need according to thy riches in glory. We look to thee. May we be lightened, and our faces be not ashamed. For thine own honor we plead with thee to fulfil thy word. Will not the world reproach thy great name if thou help us not? Our tears have been our meat day and night, while they say to us continually, Where is thy God? O our Rock, why hast thou forgotten us? Why do we go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? As with a sword in our bones our enemies reproach us, while they say daily unto us, Where is thy God? O let not our soul be cast down, let it not be disquieted in us; make us hope in thee, for we shall yet praise thee, who art the health of our countenance and our God.

O Lord, do not let us despise thy chastening, neither be weary of thy correction. Help us to inquire into the cause of thy controversy with us. Make us new creatures in Christ Jesus. May we no more be haughty. May we learn of Christ, who is meek and lowly in heart. May the Holy Spirit fill every chamber of our heart. Cast out every idol. If we be poor, make us Christ's poor. May Jesus be known in our dwellings for a refuge. May we not be like Martha, careful and troubled about many things. May we be like Mary, who chose the good part that could not be taken away from her. The law of thy mouth is better to us than thousands of gold and silver. Keep us near to thee all the day. Satisfy us with thy love at all times. Make us glory in nothing but in the cross of Christ. By it may the world be crucified unto us, and we unto the world. Be thou our Shepherd, and we shall not want. Make us to lie down in green pastures, and lead us beside the still waters. Restore our soul, and cause us to walk in the paths of righteousness, for the sake of thy name. Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, make us fear no evil, for thou art with us. Thy rod and thy staff, let them comfort us. Prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies. Anoint our head with oil. Make our cup to run over. Make goodness and mercy to follow us all the days of our life. And may we dwell in thy house forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR A FAMILY SUFFERING FROM THE LOSS OF WORLDLY SUBSTANCE.

THE Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Once we were rich, but now are we poor; and we look to thee, O Lord, in whose hand are all our ways. Teach us submission to thy will. Help us to say with all our heart, Thy will be done. May we be willing to bear the ills of poverty, if thy will be so; and may it be given us to say, I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content. May we not only bear thy will, O Lord, but may we have grace to profit by it. May we be enabled

to say, under the loss of worldly substance, When we are judged we are chastened of the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. May we feel that this is not our rest. May we be careful to have our treasure laid up in heaven. And may we be taught to estimate more highly those durable riches that cannot be taken from us. At the same time, Lord, enable us to trust in thee for such things as are necessary for us. Our heavenly Father knoweth what things we have need of. Thou hast said, Bread shall be given, and water shall be sure. Help us to believe the promise, and wait for its accomplishment. May we be contented with what thou art pleased to bestow. Thou hast assured us that all things are ours. Enable us to exercise faith in the promises of the covenant. May we remember the promise, According to your faith so be it done unto you. But, O Lord, deliver us from presumption and self-deception. Enable us to examine ourselves whether we be indeed in the faith, whether we are truly united to Christ, and possess a covenant-right to receive out of his fulness. And may we never forget that thou hast united the diligent use of the means with the enjoyment of the end. Enable us to be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. May a blessing be upon our basket and our store. We would remember him who fed the thousands with the few loaves and fishes. May he feed us. Enable us to lead a life of faith upon his providence and grace. May we be willing to be dependent upon thee. May we be satisfied to have reason to say, Give us this day our daily bread. And whatever we receive may we have grace to look upon as thy gift for Christ's sake, and be enabled to use it in thy service, and to thy glory. However it may please thee to deal with us, may it ever be our principle and rule to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, knowing all other things shall be added unto us. All we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR AN ABUNDANT HARVEST.

LORD God Almighty, we desire to draw near to thee with that humility which becomes us as creatures, and with that contrition and self-abasement which becomes us as fallen and guilty creatures. We feel and lament our backwardness to come to a throne of grace. Help, we beseech thee, our infirmities; pour out upon us a spirit of grace and supplications; draw us, and we shall run after thee.

We adore thee as our Creator and Preserver; our constant Benefactor and our Friend. Often, too often, have we been unmindful of thee; and yet, at no time hast thou been forgetful of us. Thy forbearance is indeed wonderful! By hardness and impenitency of heart; by neglect of duty; by sins committed against knowledge, and with an high hand, we have been offending against thee from

day to day : and yet all this while thou hast been sparing us alive, and upholding us with thine arm, and waiting to be gracious. Yea, thou hast not only borne with us, and been in no haste to remove us out of our place as cumberers of the ground ; but thou hast given us all things richly to enjoy ; thou hast led us and fed us all our days ; and thy mercies have been new to us at every moment. Never hast thou left thyself without witness, in that thou hast given us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. Year by year thou visitest the earth and waterest it ; thou makest it soft with showers, and blessest the springing thereof. Surely as the heavens are high above the earth, so are thy thoughts and thy ways better than ours.

Thou, Lord, keepest covenant and promise, and thy faithfulness hath again been manifested anew. The pastures have been clothed with flocks ; the valleys also have been covered over with corn ; and the little hills have rejoiced on every side. And now, thou hast crowned the year with thy goodness, and hast poured us out a blessing so abundant, that there hath not been room enough to receive it. Bless the Lord, then, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits ; who crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies ; who satisfieth our mouth with good things ; and who prepareth of his goodness for the poor.

Amid all thy giving, O God, deny us not the blessings of thy salvation. Thine ancient people did eat manna, even angels' food, in the wilderness, and are dead ; and all thy temporal bounties notwithstanding, a day, we know, will come when we also will sicken and die ; when our breath will depart, and the fashion of our countenance will be changed ; and when we shall go the way whence we shall not return. But we rejoice to be told of that bread which cometh down from heaven, of which, if any man eat, he shall live forever. Lord, evermore give us this bread, even a saving interest in him which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. And whilst we reiterate this our request unto thee for the best of all blessings, even eternal redemption through the merits and atonement of thine own Son, we would draw encouragement alike from thy providence and from thy word. Thou hast no pleasure at all in the death of him that dieth ; thy mercy endureth forever ; and thou art far more willing to grant, than we are in sincerity to seek, the benefits of thy Son's mediation. And in the blessed influences of the summer's sun and the summer's dew ; in the clouds that drop down fatness upon the pastures of the wilderness ; in the rich and laden harvest which, year by year, is seen to move over all the land ; and which tells of a beneficence that is never weary, and of a love which is as the love of a parent ; in all this we behold the tokens of a good-will, which nothing but perverse carelessness on our part can prevent from showering down upon us all that is necessary to make us wise, and happy, and good for evermore ; in all this we perceive the marks of the same bounty, in the exercise of which thou givest grace and glory, and withholdest no good thing from them that love thee. And from these, then, the intimations of thy word, and the

ways of thy providence, we would draw encouragement whilst we reiterate our earnest prayer for the blessings of thy salvation. O grant us then the blessedness of the man whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered; give us of the quickening, and enlightening, and purifying influences of thy Holy Spirit; so shall thy temporal mercies be blessed to us; so shall we receive them with thankful hearts; and so shall the lives which are supported by thy bounty be devoted to thy service. Hear us, O God, in these our petitions; and accept of us also in our thanksgivings, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

IN REFERENCE TO A SCANTY HARVEST.

MOST gracious and ever-blessed Lord God, we desire at this time to draw near unto the footstool of thy throne. We would render unto thee that worship which is thy due; and by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, we would make known unto thee our requests. May we remember that angel and archangel stand in thy presence with shaded visage; and that it becometh us to worship reverently towards thy holy place.

Thou, even thou, art God; there is none else; there is no God besides thee. Thou sittest upon the throne of the universe, and doest according to thy pleasure in the armies of heaven, and amongst the inhabitants of this world; none can stay thy hand from working, or say unto thee, What doest thou? Thou formest the light, and createst darkness: thou makest peace, and createst evil: thou the Lord doest all these things.

We would acknowledge and adore thee, at this time, as the bounteous Giver of all good. There is not a comfort we enjoy, not a supply which we receive, not a hope that gilds our path and sustains our heart, but comes from thy gracious hand. The plenteousness brought by the appointed months of harvest is thy yearly gift, and it is because thine hand is opened liberally that the wants of all creatures are supplied. And when, as now, the blessing is less abundant, it still becomes us to bow the head and adore; to say, Shall we receive good at the hand of the Lord, and shall we not receive the evil also?

O God, we believe that thou dost not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men; we believe that amid much apparent confusion thou doest all things wisely and well; we believe that thy chastenings are, all of them, administered in a spirit of parental kindness and love. And we confess that such discipline is not uncalled for. Often have we received thy providential bounties, and rendered thee no thanks; often have we drunk at the stream for thy benefits, without so much as looking up to thee the fountain whence they do all proceed. And such, unhappily, is our tendency away from thee, that wert thou sending us abundance by a law equally fixed with that under which the seasons follow one another with undeviating regu-

larity, it is to be feared that our gratitude would be less than ever, and that thy hand would be less than ever recognized and adored in the supplies which are daily sent us. Not only, therefore, would we acknowledge thine unquestionable right to do what thou wilt with thine own; but we would bless thee also for all that discipline by which thou art seeking to impress us with a sense of our entire dependence upon thee, of our helplessness without thee, and of the miserable condition of all those who live and die in a state of alienation from thee.

O give effect, by the demonstration of thy Spirit, to that lesson which, in the course of thy providence, thou art seeking to impress upon our minds and hearts; and grant unto us and unto all the families of this land, that we may be humbled before thee; that we may understand that it is upon the account of our sins that thou art contending with us; and that in all time coming we may constantly set thee before our face, and be habitually thankful for thy mercies, and be found walking in the way of thy commandments. Above all, grant unto us that we may not be involved in the guilt and condemnation of those who are insensible to thy goodness in giving us a Redeemer; who think that they are rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and know not that they are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; but as befits those who in themselves are undone, and yet have been told of thine unparalleled goodness in providing an all-sufficient Saviour, even thy well-beloved Son, let the language of our hearts be, Thanks unto God for his unspeakable gift.

We feel, O God, the force and conclusiveness of the inspired argument: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things; and we are encouraged to pray, Give us this day our daily bread. Also, in a time of scarcity and privation, be thou the friend of the poor. When thy people were faint through hunger in the wilderness, thou didst send them manna; when thy servant, the prophet, fled from the face of a wicked prince, and dwelt by the brook Cherith, thou didst send him supplies by the ministry of the birds of the air; and when the people of Samaria were pressed by grievous famine, thou didst make over to them the abundance of the Syrian camp; and we rejoice to believe that thine ear hath not become heavy, so that thou canst not hear, nor hath thine arm been shortened so that it cannot still save. Put it then, we beseech thee, into the hearts of those who are rich and increased with goods, to devise liberal things towards the poor; and, in regard to these last, do thou impart unto the little that they have the blessing of the widow of Sarepta, that the handful of meal waste not, and that the cruse of oil do not fail.

These, our petitions, O God, are before thee; incline thine ear and hear; for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for thy great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do: for all that we ask is in the name, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son and our Saviour. Amen.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR.

OH Lord! the ancient of days, whose goings forth have been from of old, even from everlasting, in the beginning hast thou laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed, but thou art the same and thy years shall have no end. What are we, the children of a day, whose life on earth is as a shadow that declineth; whose emblem is the flower of the field; in the morning, it flourisheth and groweth up, but the wind passeth over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more; what are we, that we should approach thine august presence, or lift our suit to the ear of the Eternal? Thou inhabitest eternity; it befits that creatures should approach thee with awe whose breath is in their nostrils.

Oh thou who art the first and the last! on the expiry of another year we prostrate ourselves as a family at thy footstool. Our days are verily as an hand-breadth, season after season passes, and we scarcely note its march. Day succeeds day, night succeeds night, but neither day nor night can assert one trace of stability. The visions of life flit before us like so many dreams of the night; when the morning breaks the illusions have gone, and the hours have gone with them. Oh do thou break in upon our souls with that rousing consciousness of the vanity of time, which shall ensure our hearts for eternity. Do thou teach us, do thou effectively teach us, so to number our days, as to apply our hearts unto wisdom! May the effect of all our lessons of life's insufficiency be to engage our aspirations to God!—to God, the antidote to the vanities of time—to God, the sum of blessedness—to God, the centre of a creature's hopes and felicity—to God, the fountain-head of mercies whether for time or for eternity—to God, the only adequate portion for an immortal nature—to God, the covenant God, whose memorial is pity and love to all them that seek him.

Oh Lord! on a review of the past season, we adore that kindness and care which in thy merciful providence have encompassed our path. Thy goodness has been like the morning sun; it has smiled upon us with returning day. Thy faithfulness has been like the gathering twilight, it has encircled us around with the canopy of thy guardian vigilance. If we appeal to the day as our witness, it testifies, God is kind. If we appeal to the night as our witness, it testifies God is kind. If we make our private experience the judge, the testimony is, God is kind. If we make our family experience the judge, the testimony is, God is kind. If we look to the sum of our past life, the moral is, God is kind. If we look to the accumulation of blessings, which crown our present experience, the record, the signal record is, God is kind.

And, heavenly Father, if we have to acknowledge thy temporal

benefits, how much more those which are spiritual in their character! Oh! we would not forget that a past season has been rich to us in the means of grace. We would fervently thank thee that during the bygone year a Saviour has been proclaimed to us; that sabbaths have come round to us, rich with the inscription of grace, mercy, and peace; that thy word, thy blessed word, has opened its page to us, replete with hope to the guilty, and fraught with consolation to the wretched; that the good news of salvation have saluted our ear, inviting us to the ascription, Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good-will towards men. Oh grant, we entreat thee, that our multiplied privileges and opportunities may be fraught with some corresponding improvement. Allow us not to shake off the conviction, that to whom much is given of them shall much be required. Let not an expiring year take its final flight a solemn witness against us of inconsistencies or derelictions, of misimproved opportunities or neglected seasons of grace, of ordinances outraged or gracious appeals frustrated, of convictions stifled or religious advantages defied! Oh grant, that even the eleventh hour of a season's circuit may realize some more favorable experience. May this last day of the year not pass away without such precious participation of gracious influences as shall make it also the crowning day of the season. May thine own blessed Spirit pour out his rich effusions like the latter rain, reinforcing the final promise of the year. May gracious fruits yet be reaped from all the gracious means we have enjoyed, and may a departing season yet carry in its bosom treasures that shall enrich the garner of eternity.

Heavenly Father, we would make confession before thee of all during the expiring year wherein we have offended or done amiss. Sins of omission have prevailed against us; sins of commission, we fear, have prevailed against us. And if we can condescend on many such delinquencies, how much more can thine all-seeing eye detect our many iniquities.

Oh do thou enter, not in judgment, but in mercy, into a scrutiny of our character. Do thou lay bare the obliquities of our hearts, that we may learn to hate them ourselves. Do thou search us and try us, and see what is the wicked way that is in us, and lead us in thy way everlasting. Do thou grant us in thy mercy to see ourselves in that light in which thine eye views us, and to see salvation in that light in which its own native glories enshrine it.

Oh God! we pray that when the closing day of life shall arrive, we may be found prepared for it. Oh may Christ at that solemn season be our preparation and our hope. May we be encircled with the embrace of his grace and his faithfulness. May our pillow be the bosom of his promises, and when we resign ourselves to the inexorable summons of death, may our rapturous anthem be the inspiring testimony of a Saviour: I am the resurrection and the life.

Heavenly Father, anew we consign us to thy keeping; never leave us, and never forsake us, but let thy goodness and thy mercy follow us, seeing all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

FOR THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.

O LORD, who art the great first cause, thy power gave birth to creation, and thy word ordained the first march of time. On the dawn of a new season we would prostrate ourselves at thy footstool to bespeak the safeguards of thine everlasting arm, and to commend to the riches of thy beneficence the short and uncertain compass of our appointed time upon earth. O may the contemplation of the vanity of the things of life, written on the ceaseless lapse of the seasons, dictate to our minds the attainment of a better and more enduring portion. May God's transcendent excellencies, thine own infinite fulness of good, so pre-eminently contrasting with the shadowy and fallacious character of created joys, determine our aspirations to Jehovah himself as our heritage. Abandoning all unsubstantial and visionary forms of happiness, may we seek it in the supreme centre of good himself; in the joys and consolations of his grace; in the light and love of his countenance; in the unfailing enjoyment of his bliss, in whose presence is fulness of joy, and at whose right hand are pleasures for evermore.

O God, do thou teach us on the recurrence of a season so solemn to us, to dedicate our early vows to thyself. To thy matchless providence we owe it that we are encompassed around with thy benefits. Thou hast caused thy sun this day to shine upon us; thou hast spread the table for our returning wants; thou hast imparted whatever of comfort enters into our domestic lot. O teach our souls to bless thee for thy goodness, and all that is within us to magnify thy name. May our hearts, as the altar on which we would spread our family thank-offering, be taught to shed forth their grateful incense, thine own Spirit supplying the celestial fire which shall kindle the sacrifice. And, Lord, we would hail these immediate benefits as the earnest of thy goodness to us during the season. We implore a continuance of the good gifts of thy providence. May each succeeding day bring us the sunshine of thy beneficence. May thy hand supply our returning wants; give us each day our daily bread. May thy foresight avert impending calamities; deliver us from evil. May thine eye tend our faltering steps; thou who hast led our fathers through their weary pilgrimage, be the guide of their succeeding race. May thy paternal care recruit the current of our domestic joys; do thou who settest men in families, order our family allotments in love. May thy merciful providence encompass us during the day; let not the sun smite us by day. May thy guardian faithfulness overspread us during the night; let not the moon smite us by night. And O, with all thy benefits, bestow upon us the thrice-precious gift of hearts inspired to thy praise. Let thy beneficent providence constantly stir up within us daily and fervent gratitude. Let our home be thus the little sanctuary whence incense and a pure offering shall ascend to thee; ascend to thee on each returning day with the constancy of the morning sacrifice; ascend to thee on each

returning night with the acceptance of the evening sacrifice ; ascend to thee in every instance as the oblation of pure hearts fervently ; and ascend to thee purer and purer till the measured blessings of time give place to the ampler joys of eternity.

O Lord, it may be thy pleasure that, during the course of the year on which we have entered, affliction shall becloud our path. We pray, if consistent with thy will, that it may be otherwise. In the spirit of the prayer of our Lord, we would plead that, if it be possible, such a cup may pass from us. Let us, if it please thee, be taught rather by the gentler methods which thou employest with thy children ; let us be swayed by the sweet suasions of the gospel, and by the benign and gracious admonitions of thine own blessed Spirit. But, if thou hast otherwise determined ; if the cup may not pass away from us except we drink it, prepare us to say, Thy will be done. Give us grace to exercise patience in proportion to our adversities ; to kiss the rod, even while we feel its smart ; to bless the scourge even while we feel the stripe ; to glorify thee, even while we endure the fires. And O do thou bestow upon us consolations commensurate with every dark and trying hour. May thine own blessed comforts revive our souls. May thine own sweet mercies pour themselves like some softening balm over every aching sore. May thy paternal endearments flow in upon us a more than antidote to every distressful visitation. May the unspeakable soothing of thy blessed Spirit breathe in upon our hearts, giving them even more gladness than when our wine and our corn increased. And may the fruit, O may the fruit of all be to bring us nearer to God. As we are divorced from creature comforts, may we live closer to the Creator. As the ties of earth are broken, may the ties of heaven be strengthened. As affliction strips us of temporal joys, may we be supplied out of Jehovah's fulness. As vanity overspreads the visions of life, may our retreat more eagerly be to that bosom of divine light and love in which an immortal spirit shall find unalloyed bliss through eternity.

O Lord, we cannot look out on the prospects of a now revolving year, without preferring our most earnest prayer that thou wouldest grant us to make a more adequate improvement of our religious advantages than in times past we have done. We have to confess, with sorrow and shame, that too nearly, in many instances, have we verified the reproach of the parable, Lo, yet this one year more have I sought fruit on this fig-tree, and have found none. O do thou, nevertheless, forbear to execute judgment upon us. Say not in thine indignation, Cut it down ; why cumbereth it the ground ? Continue to us rather, in thy great mercy continue to us, the ordinances and opportunities of the gospel. But O, above all, grant that we may more adequately profit by them ; may learn more of the grace and excellency of Christ ; know more of the height, and depth, and length, and breadth of his love ; acquire a more thorough conformity to his will ; be more imbued with his Spirit ; be more entirely moulded to his likeness ; wear more of the graces and virtues which adorn his calling. May the close of the year, if we are spared to reach it, witness us in advance of the Christian growth which marked

its commencement; witness us more assimilated to the Saviour, and more ripe for the felicities of heaven.

O merciful Father, we consign us unreservedly to thy keeping. Thou hast been our help in times past. Be our portion evermore. And now, let our prayer come before thee with acceptance; let thine ear be attentive to our cry. And do thou to us, and do thou for us, above what we can ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR A BIRTH-DAY.

O LORD! the Creator of the ends of the earth, the former of our bodies and the Father of our spirits, we approach thy footstool to bless thy name and to lift up our supplications to heaven, thy dwelling-place. Thou hast made us and not we ourselves; we are thy people and the sheep of thy pasture. Thy fostering providence sustained us amid the helplessness of infancy; thy tender guardianship watched our ripening years; thy hand has showered around us the blessings which from day to day have sweetened the path of life, and thy matchless goodness has so crowned the portion of our temporal bliss, that we may fitly adopt the language, Our cup has been made to run over. We would fervently lift the testimony at thy footstool, What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits? Thy loving-kindness has been new to us every morning, and thy faithfulness repeated to us every night.

But above all thy other works are the mercies of redemption. When we had forfeited every original hope, thou didst beget us to a new hope. We thank thee, that when we were in our low and lost estate, thine own eye beheld us with a look of pity, and thine own arm grasped us with the embrace of salvation. We bless thee, we unfeignedly bless thee, that the same hour which recorded a Saviour's birth, recorded also the day-spring of our own hopes; that the same anthem which proclaimed, To you is born a Saviour, proclaimed also, Peace on earth, good-will toward men. Oh may the rise of the Sun of Righteousness be associated in our experience with the rise of the day-star in our own hearts; may the nativity of the Saviour be reflected in the new birth of a soul begotten to his image. May Christ be formed in our hearts, the hope of glory, and enshrined in our sentiments, and sympathies, and affections; may the Holy One of God's anointing, be also the beloved One of our souls.

Heavenly Father, on an occasion interesting to us, for it is the day when one of our circle was born into the world, we would approach thee with our special tribute of praise. We bless thee in respect of the individual whose nativity this day commemorates, for all the goodness and mercy of which thy Providence has been the vehicle. We thank thee in respect of us unitedly, for the loving-kindness which, as a family, we have received from stage to stage of our history. Our birth has thus been only the first-fruits of a

goodness and mercy which has tended us from day to day and from night to night; a goodness which hath extended itself to every period and every province of life; a goodness which multiplying itself as our days advanced, has shed blessings on our domestic sphere, gladdened the bosom of our home, mitigated our sorrows, enhanced our joys, chastened our trials, brightened our hopes, ministered to our wants, refined our pleasures, spread a charm over the past, and gilded with promise every vision of the future. Oh let us feel constrained to set up our Ebenezer, our memorial, our most grateful memorial, Hitherto the Lord hath helped us.

Heavenly Father, when recounting thy goodness in giving us being, we would not forget that there is a second birth, to which, if we are strangers, it had been better for us not to have received being at all. We would recognize our Saviour's language, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. O may thine own divine Spirit, who can alone re-fashion a soul in thine image, beget us to that spiritual renovation which shall usher us to newness of life. May his quickening power implant all those divine graces and instincts, and principles and tastes, which mark the nativity of a child of God. May Christ be formed in our souls. May faith in him, as the principle of a new life, quicken all the activities of the inner man. May the love of God be shed abroad in our hearts. May the simplicity of little children in Christ characterize our uniform conduct. With the instincts of little children, may we desire the sincere milk of the word. With the filial confidence of children may we cry, Abba, Father. With the dutifulness of children, may we grow up to him in all things, who is our Head, even Christ. May we evince ourselves the children of the light and of the day, the children of him who is light and in whom is no darkness at all. May the title, Sons of God, be verified both in our tastes and experience.—In our *tastes*,—may we be followers of God as dear children. May our souls follow hard after him. May our aspirations lift themselves to that sublime tribute of filial devotedness, As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so pant our souls after thee, O God.—May our *experience*, again, be that of thy children. Vouchsafe to regard us with a parent's love. May thy Spirit bear witness in unison with our spirits, of thy fatherly complacency. May the consolations of God, like a parent's caress of tenderness, gladden our souls. May the delights, the sweet mercies of God, gladden our hearts. May ours be the record on earth, One is our Father, even God. May ours be the patrimony in heaven, to join the general assembly and church of the first-born, of which God is the Father and Christ the elder Brother.

Oh God! prolong to us as a family thy kindness and thy care. We have enjoyed them since we had our being, continue them to us till the hour of death; and may eternity be to all of us the ripe birth-day of a still higher, and holier, and happier existence.—Hear us in heaven, thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest, forgive, and accept, and do, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TO BE USED BY A SAILOR'S FAMILY IN REFERENCE
TO HIS ABSENCE.

ETERNAL God, we bow in reverence before thy throne, and bless thee that we are privileged to have access unto thee ; we give thanks unto thy name, O righteous Father, that thou hast not banished us eternally from thy blissful presence, as our rebellion deserved, but hast kindly invited us sinners to approach thee again ; welcoming us back to thee through Jesus the one Mediator. Everlasting praise be to God, unceasing thanksgiving to Jehovah, for his love to a guilty world, and for the redemption of his elect people by Christ. Grant, O blessed Lord, that the sound of the gospel salvation which hath reached this earth, may also reach our hearts ; and give us a personal and saving interest in the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. O give us, with all earnestness and without delay, to receive Christ, and with him all the fulness of his purchased and covenant blessings. May each one of us now bending before thee in prayer, and may all connected with us, wherever they be, have the comfortable and well-grounded assurance that we are reconciled to God through Christ the Son of his love. May we know and feel, in our happy experience, that our sins are pardoned, that we are accepted in the Beloved, that we have cast in our lot and portion with God's people, and that we are now all on our journey to Emmanuel's land. O may thy Spirit enlighten, strengthen, guide us ; may we each one, day by day, be planting our footsteps more firmly on the Rock of ages ; may we be taking refuge in Christ, the only ark of safety, and then, though the waves of trial dash against us, we shall not be moved. Give us, O blessed God, the faith that unites to Jesus, that overcometh this evil world ; give us the love that marks out thine own children. Give us the firm and assured hope of eternal joy through him that loved us ; keep us in mind, O Lord, that we are pilgrims and strangers here, and that our home, our rest, is above. Thou dost separate us at times from those who are very dear to us ; but O may none of us be separated from Jesus at any period of our earthly sojourn. Holy Father, keep from sin those of our number that are absent in the midst of the dangers of the ocean ; we cry unto thee to preserve him [*them*] that is [*are*] dear to us, that we may see him [*them*] again in peace and safety ; when the storm rages, and he [*they*] is [*are*] in fear, do thou calm his [*their*] troubled mind ; and speak peace and say, Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid. Thou art the God of Providence, the elements obey thy command, and when the proud waves uplift themselves, thou canst still them again ; we commit unto thy care and keeping those whom we love, and who may be now tossed upon the raging billows. Let thy mighty power defend him [*them*]. Be thou, the eternal God, their refuge, and underneath and around them let thine everlasting arms be. Bring them, O Lord, to their appointed haven, and let his [*their*] soul rejoice in thee. They see thy wonders in the

deep, O let not them be careless and indifferent to thy voice and to thy warnings ; may they remember whence deliverance cometh ; not by their own might, or wisdom, or power, but from thee, the God of Jacob ; and Oh ! may they be ready and willing to ascribe unto thee all the glory and the praise. We give thee, O Lord, our most cordial and hearty thanksgiving for thy mercies to us and to all connected with us. Oh give us to live closely to thee, and to testify our gratitude by obedience to thy commands ; and we would not forget all those that are on the sea. Preserve, amid the perils of the deep, the father, that his children may rejoice together ; the husband, that he may comfort and cherish her that is dear to him ; the son, that he may be the support and the stay of his parents. Be also with the stranger, and undertake thou for him.

O Lord, hear us in behalf of all men ; especially would we pray for thine own people, and for those of them that are under any trial. Hasten the time when Christ shall reign spiritually with a sceptre of peace over a ransomed and regenerated world. Purify thy church ; and now, Lord, what wait we for ? our hope is in thee. Hear, answer, and accept of us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

FOR A FISHERMAN'S FAMILY.

O LORD our God, thou art very great. Thou art the only Creator and sovereign Ruler of all things. At first didst thou command the waters under the heavens to be gathered together into one place, that the dry land might appear. And still art thou mightier than the noise of many waters ; yea, than the great waves of the sea, so that thou canst say to it, Hitherto thou shalt come, and no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed. Yet thou art as gracious, as thou art great : and worthy, therefore, to be the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea. Thou hast manifested thy compassion, especially, in providing for us an ark of safety. We had exposed ourselves to the storm of thy wrath ; and had it not been for thy mercy our souls should have been utterly wrecked, and even swallowed up in the abyss of hell. But thou hast sent thine own Son from heaven to rescue us from ruin. And we pray thee that, as he is both able and willing to save us, thou wouldst enable each of us to cast ourselves upon him, and to cleave to him as our only and our all-sufficient Saviour. O may we be in him, as Noah was in the ark, that we may be preserved from the dangers that surround us, and may live as the monuments of thy distinguishing mercy, and may be prepared for the new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

We thank thee, Lord, for all the provision thou hast made for us here below. Thou hast created whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas : and over the fishes of the sea hast thou given man dominion that he may use them for his support. Be thou, then, the

guardian of all who, in the exercise of their lawful calling, cast angle or spread nets in the sea. May their lives be preserved, and their labors prospered; and may they ever gratefully trace their safety and success to thee. Bestow thy special blessing on the members of this family. May our industry be crowned with success, and our wages be spent in thy fear. Do thou also graciously grant deliverance when any of us are exposed to danger: and sanctify to us any losses and bereavements we may sustain. And O may he who chose for his apostles the fishermen of Galilee, be our friend and Saviour. May he dispose us to follow him as his disciples, and to devote ourselves to his service.

We pray for all that go down to the sea in ships, and do business on the great waters, and see thy works and wonders in the deep. Give them safe and prosperous voyages. And when by thy command the stormy wind is raised, and the boisterous waves are lifted up, so that the mariners are at their wits' end, do thou hear them as they cry to thee, and deliver them out of their distresses, making the storm a calm, and bringing them to their desired haven. And O that those who are delivered would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. Be peculiarly gracious to any connected with ourselves who may be on the face of the deep. Let us have comfortable tidings of them from time to time. And let them, in due season, be restored to their homes and their friends.

We plead with thee in behalf of all our brethren. Let the net of the gospel be more widely spread, and let it inclose great multitudes. Make our own minister a successful fisher of men. May we individually be brought to the Saviour; and having enjoyed his presence and protection during all the troubled voyage of life, be brought at length in safety to the promised land, through his merits and mediation. Amen.

A FUNERAL PRAYER.

BY THOMAS CHALMERS, D.D. AND LL.D.

WE desire, O Lord, to submit without a murmur to the whole of Thy will concerning us—to bow in silence under all the exercises of that sovereignty which belongs to Thee—to be enabled to say that this is of the Lord, and He hath done what seemeth unto him good; and though Thy ways to us are full of mystery, and we cannot comprehend them, yet we are sure that there is wisdom in all Thy doings, and kindness in all Thy visitations.

Grant, O Lord, to each and to all of us, that we make a right improvement of this dark and heavy dispensation; and while our hearts are softened in all the tenderness of afflicted nature before Thee, do Thou engrave upon them the permanent lessons of truth, and justice,

and substantial piety. We have often in time past had experience of the exceeding frailty of all our purposes. We have often felt how momentary were all our impressions of the awfulness and the melancholy of death—how speedily they were put to flight when we turned us aside to business or to amusement, and that however much we were touched and solemnized by a moving occasion, like the present, it was all forgotten when we again mingled in this world's concerns and in this world's companies. Oh! may thy Spirit come down upon us now and fix every good impression that is to be gathered from our visit to this house of mourning. May we learn from this time forward no longer to build our tabernacle here—no longer to look for a resting-place among the promises and the expectations of time—no longer to put death at a distance from us—no longer to defer the urgent work of a preparation for eternity—no longer to bury all the seriousness of our thoughts and of our feelings among the folly, or the profligacy, or the impiety of careless and light-hearted acquaintances. Oh! may he who is dead yet speak to us. Do, through him, make thy rebuking glance light with impressiveness and with power on the hearts of the rebellious. Do thou arrest them in the midst of their ungodly career. May the early departure of him who has gone before us tell with all the energy of a warning upon their consciences; and save them, O Lord, from the delusion, that it is yet time enough to repent, and to be serious, and to bid adieu to their violations of principle and of purity ere they die. Give us to understand that every day spent in the service of sin makes us more helplessly and more irrecoverably the slaves of it. Give us to understand that every deed of wickedness we commit is just adding another chain to the tyranny of habit. Give us to understand that every warning we put away from us is sheathing our hearts in a more hardened and impenetrable obstinacy; and with the whole weight of these considerations upon us, grant, grant, Almighty Father, that to-day, while it is called to-day, we may make haste to keep thy commandments, seeing "that now only is our accepted time, and now is the day of our salvation."

O come down with the whole power of thy rich and precious consolations on the hearts of this family. We bless thee that though thou hast filled them with sorrow, thou hast given them such reason as they have to sorrow not even as others which have no hope. We bless thee, O Lord, at the remembrance of all thy grace in behalf of him whom thou hast thought fit to remove from us. We bless thee for his obedience to the faith of thy gospel. We bless thee for the rising virtues which adorned him. We bless thee for the brightening progress of his example. We bless thee for the whole work of thy Spirit upon his heart and upon his conscience. We bless thee for his simple and entire dependence on a crucified Saviour. We bless thee that while he was in the world thou didst keep him by the power of thy divine grace from the evil of it, and that in thy gracious dealings with his spirit thou didst pour all the radiance of faith, and hope, and triumphant anticipation over his death-bed.

Oh! may we retire from this moving scene with hearts bettered,

with minds resolved to forsake all for Christ, with affections weaned from this world and all its lying vanities; and grant that one and all of us who are here before thee may so walk, and so live, and so abound in those fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to thy praise and to thy glory, that when we come to die and to rise again we may be found side by side at the right hand of thine everlasting throne.

DURING THE VISITATION OF A PESTILENTIAL EPIDEMIC.

O LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. To whom can we go but unto thee, that hast the words of eternal life? Give us nearer access to thee than ever we enjoyed before. From the end of the earth, will we cry unto thee. When our heart is overwhelmed, lead us to the rock that is higher than we. We have ran with the footmen, and they have wearied us, but now thou art calling us to contend with horses. In the land of peace, wherein we trusted, we have been wearied, but now thou bringest us to the swellings of Jordan. Oh grant, that we may trust in thee, and feel thee a present help in trouble.

O Lord, being afflicted, we pray; we set our faces to seek thee in this day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy. We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly; and have rebelled even by departing from thy precepts, and from thy judgments. O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To thee our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against thee. O Lord, thou hast watched upon the evil and brought it upon us.

Humble each of us now kneeling before thee, under a sense of our own guilt and deformity in thy sight. In our own heart do thou reveal to us the cause of thy judgments. Alas, we confess, that in every one of us there is as much sin as may justly be the cause of this great evil that has come upon us. How long we lived without thee in the world, serving diverse lusts and pleasures; living in malice and envy, hated and hating one another. Our sins, as we are in ourselves, appear like an infinite deluge, or mountains over our heads. As a fountain casteth out her waters, so our heart casteth out its wickedness. Everything in which our heart is concerned is polluted. If thou wert to deal with us according to our sin, thou wouldest send the breath of the pestilence into our dwellings, and sweep us away with the besom of destruction. Our flesh trembleth for fear of thee, and we are afraid of thy judgments. Thou turnest man to destruction, and sayest, Return ye children of men. Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as asleep; they are like the grass which groweth up; in the morning it flourisheth and groweth up, in the evening it is cut down and withered. For we are con-

sumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. Why hast thou spared us hitherto, O Lord? We are no better than others. Lord, teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. We pray that this time of darkness may lead us to cleave closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. O thou that art the hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, like rivers of waters in a dry place, and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, hide us deeper in thyself. Cause us to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning, for in thee do we trust. Deliver us, O Lord, from our enemies; we flee to thee to hide us. O grant, in this time of calamity, when so many are taken suddenly to their great account, that we may be found in Christ. May the Lord be all our righteousness. May Jesus be our present and eternal all.

May we be willing to be hell-deserving in ourselves, and heaven-deserving in Christ alone. Love us freely; be like the dew upon our souls. May we be kept in perfect peace, our minds being stayed on thee, because we trust in thee. Make us feel that the same hand that wields the pestilence, was nailed to the accursed tree for us. Cover us with thy feathers, and under thy wings make us trust. Make thy truth our shield and buckler; do not let us be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. When a thousand fall at our side, and ten thousand at our right hand, may it not come nigh us. Be thou our refuge, then there shall no evil befall us, neither shall any plague come near our dwelling.

We pray that we may improve by this solemn visitation. May afflicting time be quickening time. Lord, increase our faith; Lord, teach us to pray. Lord, what change wouldest thou have wrought in us? Cleanse us from secret faults, keep us back from presumptuous sins. Wean us from this world; may our conversation be in heaven. Make us willing to be sick and willing to be well; willing to live and willing to die; willing to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Most merciful Father, we pray for thine own children who are sick, that thou wilt be their physician; make all their bed to them in their sickness. Give them peace and joy in believing; give them an anchor within the veil. Make them more than conquerors through him that loved them. O God, who hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they should turn and live, spare unconverted souls who are now trembling on the brink of eternity. Lord, turn their hard hearts, turn their dying eyes to Jesus lifted up to save sinners. Give them to look as the dying thief looked to Jesus, and to cry, Lord, remember me. Have compassion on the bereaved; may they spread their sorrows before Jesus.

And now turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease. Wilt thou be angry with us forever; wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee? Give a double portion

of thy Spirit to thy ministers at this solemn time, that they may be instant in season and out of season. Quicken thy people in prayer and supplication, and let this time of calamity be a time of blessing from on high. May many souls be saved, and may glory dwell in our land. Make us more compassionate to the sick and afflicted; make us more laudably alive to the interests of Zion; make us more humble, more holy, more watchful; make us take heed, watch, and pray, seeing we know not when the time is, lest the master coming suddenly should find us sleeping.

O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O our God. And may glory undivided everlasting be to thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

GRACES BEFORE MEAT.

I.

O LORD, thou spreadest a table for us from day to day. The earth is full of thy riches, and of these thou art constantly bestowing abundance upon us. Grant, O most gracious Father, a covenant-blessing with this renewed manifestation of thy bounty and faithfulness, and pardon our every sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

II.

O Lord, thou feedest and thou clothest us, and all that we have is thine. Of thine own blessings hast thou now set before us. Grant thy fatherly blessing with them, that we may enjoy them free from the curse which sin has entailed on all our earthly enjoyments. May they be to us the gifts of covenant-grace, and tokens of thy love. Pardon, and accept us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

III.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Lord of heaven and earth, thou art ever mindful of our wants. Thy faithfulness never fails, thy bounty is ever with us. Gracious Lord, vouchsafe us thy forgiveness and blessing with these the gifts of thy providence. Let these mercies come to us with Christ present in them all. May we feel them doubly sweet because gifted to us for his sake. Blot out our offences, and quicken us for thy service, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

IV.

In thee, O Lord, we live, and move, and have our being. Keep us mindful of our dependence upon thee, and our obligations to thee. Do thou graciously forgive our sins, and sanctify us by thy Spirit. Grant us also, now, a Father's blessing with the bounty of thy providence, for Christ's sake. Amen.

V.

Most gracious God, we are entirely dependent on thee for all things pertaining to life and godliness. Feed us with food convenient for us. Do thou also feed our souls with the bread of life; and strengthen us that we may do thy holy will, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

VI.

O God, we are utterly unworthy of the least of all thy mercies; and yet thou art continually doing us good. As thou spreadest a table for us, let us receive thy blessing with our daily bread. Do thou likewise dispose us to labor for the bread that endureth unto everlasting life; and while we hunger and thirst after righteousness, may our souls be filled thereby, for the sake of our blessed Saviour. Amen.

 GRACES AFTER MEAT.

I.

Most gracious Father, accept of our united thanksgiving for the mercies thou hast now conferred upon us. May we ever feel the constraining influence of thy love; and walk in love, obeying thy commandments in all things. Let us not want for the bread of life. Fill the cravings of our soul with the provisions of thy grace, and pardon and accept of us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

II.

We praise thee, O God, for thy constant love. Thou art ever renewing thy mercies towards us, and constantly renewing and enhancing our obligations to love and serve thee. Help us, gracious God, to discharge these obligations, and stir us up to glorify thee in our lives as well as our lips. Forgive all our sins, and accept of us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

III.

Praised be thy name, O God, for the token of thy abiding love which we have now enjoyed. Surely thou art ever merciful. O make us good stewards of thy manifold grace. Let not thy bounteous fulness steal away our hearts from thee. Bind us by thy living grace to thyself, and fill us with the Spirit of Christ, and the glory shall be thine forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IV.

Thou loadest us daily with thy benefits, O God of our salvation. Let our souls live and praise thee. Make us, indeed, as the children of so many mercies, devoted to thy fear; and let us find acceptance in thy sight, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

V.

Accept, O Lord, our grateful acknowledgments for the mercies we have now received. Teach us thy statutes; and enable us, as we live by thy bounty, to live to thy praise. Sanctify us for thy service, and accept us in the Beloved. Amen.

VI.

We bless thee, heavenly Father, for what we have now received of thy bounty, and pray thee to enable us to use it in thy service. Give us grace to remember that man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of thy mouth; and by that word do thou nourish us up unto life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SHORT PRAYERS TO BE USED BEFORE COMMENCING FAMILY WORSHIP.

I.

O God, do thou bless us with special favor in the situation in which we are now placed, as thus surrounding the domestic altar; and do thou send help to us out of thy holy sanctuary. May thy grace be found, in our happy experience, to be sufficient for us. May thy strength be perfected in our weakness, and thus we shall read with profit to our immortal souls a portion of the sacred oracles, and thus we shall address ourselves to thee with acceptance at the throne of grace. O Lord, do us all the good we need, according to thine abundant mercy, in the Son of thy love, and all we ask is for his sake. Amen.

II.

Most merciful God, as we well know that the preparations of the heart in man and the answer of the tongue are from thee, we would earnestly entreat that in thy kindness and love thou wouldest impart all the preparations we require to enable us to worship thee at this time in a becoming manner. May we realize the majesty of thy presence, so that we may appear with the greatest reverence before thee, and may we be deeply impressed with a sense of our own unworthiness, that we may appear in the exercise of the utmost humility and contrition of spirit. Help us withal to come before thee in holy confidence, that we may with the freedom of children drawing near to a kind father, willingly confess our many transgressions, and supplicate thy pardoning mercy. O Lord, deal with us very bountifully, in accepting of our persons and services, and our praises shall be of thee, through Jesus Christ, our all-prevailing Advocate. Amen.

III.

Heavenly Father, we desire to give thee thanks for the freedom of access we at all times enjoy into thy holy presence, whether in public or in private: and in drawing near at this time may we find that in very deed thy presence is with us. Lord, make it known unto us that thou art nigh by causing us to sing thy praises with melody in our hearts. Enable us to sing with the spirit and with the understanding also. Guide us likewise in the reading of a portion of thy most blessed revelation. May the sound of it not only reach our ears, but may it touch our hearts, and may we be filled with all joy and peace in believing. We also entreat thee, O Lord, to direct us in lifting up our voice to thee in prayer. Do thou thyself fill our mouths with arguments wherewith we may order our cause before thee. O God, answer these our desires, and our approach at this time will be as the offering of the morning and evening sacrifice. Hear us in Christ. Amen.

IV.

O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. We gladly recognize it as our duty to worship thee in the family, and now that we are together in a family capacity, that we may unite in thy service, be thou in the midst of us to bless us and to do us good. Bestow on us the spirit of true devotion, that we may worship thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Visit us with the joys of thy salvation. Uphold us by thy Holy Spirit, and so we shall rejoice in calling on thy most holy name, and in learning what thy will is in that part of the sacred records which we are about to consult. O shine on thine own word, and shine in our hearts by the enlightening influences of thy Spirit, that we may gladly take thy word as a light to our feet and a lamp to our path. Direct us in singing thy praises; and bow thy heavens when we bow our knee before thee in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

V.

O Lord, we desire not only to regard it as an important duty, but also to esteem it as an unspeakable privilege that we are permitted to assemble in this manner, that we may engage in praising thy holy name, and in supplicating thy favor at the throne of grace. Thou requirest of us that in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving we should let our requests be made known unto thee. Prepare us for doing so in this approach, and do thou return to our prayers an answer in peace. Do thou also give testimony to the word of thy grace in our experience, by causing those instructions in it to which our attention may be directed at this time, to reach our hearts. Thus teach us thy will and our duty, and may we be accepted through the Saviour, on whose atoning sacrifice we altogether depend in looking for a blessing on our services. Amen.

VI.

O God, may all worldly and distracting thoughts be shut out from

our minds whilst we are occupied in the solemn services on which we are entering. O forbid that we should seem to show much love with our mouth, whilst it is recorded in judgment against us that our heart is going after its covetousness. O Lord, may it be far from us to offer unto thee strange fire, and to mock thee with sacrifices that are vain. Wherefore do thou mercifully undertake in our behalf to bring us into thy holy presence with clean hands and a pure heart. Spiritualize our sentiments and feelings, that we may find acceptance in thy sight, and experience the comfort of holding sweet fellowship with thee, and with thy Son Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Ghost. Deal thus bountifully with us, O Lord, according to thy riches in grace through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN.

MORNING.

O God, thou art very great, but thou art also very kind. May I fear thee because of thy greatness, and may I love thee because of thy kindness. I have often sinned against thee, and I deserve to die and go to hell. But thou hast preserved me in life throughout another night, and thou art still giving me many comforts. Thou art even offering to pardon me and make me happy forever. O may I believe what thou hast told me about Jesus Christ, who took little children in his arms and blessed them, and died upon the cross for sinners such as I am. May I love Jesus, and do what he has commanded me. May I avoid falsehood, and quarreling, and all other sins. May I remember that thou always seest me, and that it is very wrong and dangerous to disobey so great and holy a king and so kind and affectionate a Father. Bless my parents and all my relations. May they serve and enjoy thee. Bless the whole world. Keep me this day by thy power and mercy, and answer these my prayers for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

EVENING.

GREAT God, whom the holy angels worship, and who art far more glorious than they, look down in mercy on a little child, and hear his [*her*] prayers and praises. Thou hast been very kind in sparing me so long, and in giving me so many comforts. And O how kind hast thou been to me and others in sending Jesus Christ that sinners might be saved! For his sake pardon my sins, and enable me to obey thee, and take me at last to heaven. O may I become wiser and better the longer I live. Be very kind to my parents and to my other relations and friends. May they be children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ. Have pity on children who have lost their

father or mother, and be thou thyself a kind parent to them. Cure sick persons, and send food to the poor. And O may sinners remember that they have souls as well as bodies, and be prepared not only to live, but also to die. Keep me in safety throughout this night, and bring me, if that be thy holy will, to the light of another day. O God, have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and hear these my prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

CHILD'S MORNING PRAYER.

O LORD, thou art my God, and I praise thee that thou dost let a child like me kneel at thy throne. Look on me in Christ, and for his sake love me, and blot all my sins out of thy book. I thank thee that I have seen the light of this day. I thank thee for the rest of the past night. Lord, keep me through this day. May thine arm lead me, and guard me from all harm. May I walk and act as a child of Christ; may I hate all sin, and love all that is good, and live, as thy word bids me, to thy praise. Let my friends be thy friends, and be thine in this world, and thine in the world to come. Make us all pure in the blood of the Lamb of God that was slain, and good by thy grace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

THIS night, O Lord, I lift up my voice to thank thee for all the love thou hast this day shown me. Thou hast kept me from harm, and hast given me all that I stood in need of. Make me to love thee more and more, and to serve thee with all my heart. May my sins be pardoned, and my soul saved for the sake of Christ. Watch over me and all whom I love this night, and while we sleep be our shade on our right hand, and spare us to meet on a new day, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THE END.