

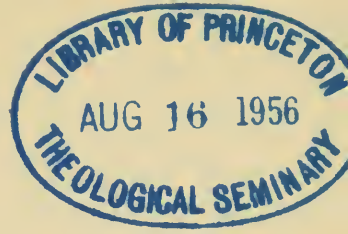
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PRINCETON · NEW JERSEY



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Prayers for the choir



PRAYERS
FOR
THE CHOIR



Charles G. Bayard

PREFATORY NOTE

THESE PRAYERS, composed by a layman for the choir in his church, have been offered in the moment before the choir enters the sanctuary for its part in the service. They have proved a means of uniting the singers in a due sense of their sacred office, and of lifting them to aspiration above that of mere artistic success. It is hoped that they may serve many other choirs as they have served the choir for which they were composed.

ADVENT

LORD JESUS, as we again draw near to Bethlehem in expectant adoration, wilt Thou replenish us with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and make Thy perpetual Advent in our hearts, that we may attain to a due sense of Thine inestimable gift to us, and faithfully serve Thee with single purpose and humble voices to the glory of Thy name and the endless triumph of Thy kingdom. Amen.

CHRISTMAS

DEAR Lord Emmanuel, as shepherds and princes brought Thee their choicest gifts, when Thou tookest upon Thee the burden and sin of mankind, so now, at Thy Nativity, we bring Thee this gift of our best effort to glorify Thee with voice and instrument. Sanctify our gift with Thy presence, we pray Thee, and make it a means of grace to us and to all who worship with us. Amen.

CHRISTMAS

BLESSED Lord Jesus, wilt Thou so fix in us the perennial joy of Thy coming into this world, that we may serve Thee and glorify Thee with our whole mind and heart and utterance both now and all the days of our life. And to Thee be all honor and glory evermore. Amen.

THE NEW YEAR

To THEE, blessed Lord, we this day consecrate anew the gifts of voice and talent and skill which Thou hast granted us. Sanctify our oblation, we pray Thee, with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and help us to offer it with a whole heart in steadfast and loving loyalty to Thee. Amen.

H O L Y W E E K

ADORABLE SAVIOR, Who of Thy tender love for mankind didst take upon Thee our flesh, and for our sake didst suffer weariness, poverty, insult, betrayal, and death upon the cross, help us in commemorating Thy passion with hymn and canticle to gain a truer measure of Thy love and sacrifice, and deeper devotion to Thee. Amen.

E A S T E R

O THOU triumphant Lord of Life, on this memorial of Thy glorious resurrection from the dead, grant us, we pray, new assurance of the life everlasting; and help us, with glad voices, to share our assurance with all who worship here this day. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.

COMMUNION

O THOU merciful and loving Lord, as we draw near to Thee in this holy office of Communion, wilt Thou so order our minds, hearts, and voices to Thy will, that we, and others with us, may be led into new and closer intimacy with Thee. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

O THOU ineffable Lord, to Whom angels and archangels and all the host of heaven lift their voices in true and everlasting unison, wilt Thou enable us so to join our voices with theirs in perfect harmony of heart and mind, that we may live at all times in unison with Thy will and Thy love. To Thee we render all praise and devotion. Amen.

OUR Heavenly Father, knowing that without Thee our best effort is vain, we ask Thy help this day in our ministration of praise and prayer through song, that it may be wholly acceptable to Thee, and a means of spiritual strength and comfort both to ourselves and to all who hear. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To THEE, all-bountiful Lord, and to
Thee alone we owe and acknowledge
with grateful hearts this gift of utterance
through harmony and melody. Help us in
our use of it never to be unmindful of Thee
Who gavest it, and so to employ it as to im-
part to others a revelation of Thy goodness
and Thy glory. Amen.

GRANT us this day, Lord Jesus, a new sense and measure of Thine inestimable love and sacrifice for us, that with single heart and undiscording voice we may raise to Thee a new song of praise and thanksgiving. And to Thy name be all honor and glory now and evermore. Amen.

LORD GOD, our Help and Hope, wilt Thou,
in this hour, lift us out of commonplace
routine, out of our preoccupation with little
and irrelevant things. To Thy service alone
would we consecrate this hour. Hallow, we
pray Thee, our sacrifice of song, and help us
to make it worthy of Thy use in the life of
Thy kingdom. Amen.

NOT for our own merit, nor for mere satisfaction of artistic success, do we here bring Thee, dear Lord, our happy oblation of song and praise; but for the pure joy of serving Thee, Who hast done so much for us. Sanctify our offering, we pray Thee, and so quicken it with Thy life that it may be a means of everlasting comfort and assurance to all who hear. Amen.

To THEE, our Heavenly Father, we devote the gift of music and song which Thou in Thy goodness hast vouchsafed to us. Wilt Thou so inspire us in our use of it that it may raise a new song in the hearts of all who worship here this morning. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEAR LORD, wilt Thou abide with us this day, and resolve within us all discords of heart and mind. So attune our voices to Thy will, we pray Thee, that, through our effort to serve Thee we may discover and reveal the resolution of all discord in Thee. In Thy name and for Thy sake we ask it. Amen.

DEAR and gracious Lord, through the mysteries of music, of melody and harmony, wilt Thou grant us some intimation of the mysteries of Thy grace and Thy love for us; and enable us by our best endeavor to share this intimation with others. To Thee we lift up our hearts in grateful praise. Amen.

OUR Heavenly Father, without Whose help no one can worthily serve Thee, we entreat Thy strength and inspiration in our ministry of music that our every attempt to praise and magnify Thee may redound to the upbuilding of Thy kingdom among us. Amen.

ALMIGHTY and All-loving Father, Well-spring of all wisdom and all beauty, wilt Thou so enkindle our hearts and minds, and so sustain our utterance in hymn and anthem, that our part in this service may bring to us and to all who hear a new sense of Thy glory and Thy love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, let our song rise before Thee as incense; and the lifting up of our voices as the morning sacrifice. Set a watch, O Lord, upon our utterance; keep the door of our lips. Suffer no evil thing to enter our hearts that our service to Thee may be pure and holy. Amen.

O LORD GOD, from Whom cometh all that is good and beautiful, we would, this radiant morning, unite our hearts and voices with the glory of Thy world in praise and adoration of Thee. Accept our best endeavor, we pray Thee, and with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit make it better than our best that it may awaken in all who worship here a new vision of Thy beauty and Thy power. For Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever. Amen.

DEAR Savior of men, as Thou didst give Thyself wholly and freely in our behalf, grant us, we pray Thee, the utter joy of devoting our best talent and skill to Thy use in Thy ministration of peace and comfort to all who seek Thee. Amen.

O THOU from Whom proceedeth the deep harmony and glorious melody of all Nature and all life, so inspire our attempt worthily to show forth Thy praise that it may be in perfect unison with Thee, and awaken in others an understanding of Thy concord and Thy love. Amen.

To THEE, blessed Lord, we lift up our hearts and voices in praise and adoration. Wilt Thou let no selfish thought or unworthy feeling intervene to corrupt the spirit of our worship or impair our service to others and to Thee. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.