

REVISED.

1980'

27<sup>a</sup>

13 pages  
PLUS  
4 pages

COMMITTEE ON TRANSLATION AND REVISION OF CONFSSIONAL AND  
LITURGICAL FORMS.

PRAYERS

Introductory remarks.

As we wanted to stay as closely as possible to the prayers, as found in the Book of Praise (pp475-495), we did not use the new Dutch version of the prayers, which extensively differs from the old version. In our revision we

- a. updated the language and broke up long sentences;
- b. shortened the prayers wherever this was possible without damage to the contents.
- c. added some petitions related to our present day needs. We did so particularly in the prayer for all the needs of Christendom.
- d. left out some expressions which tried to convey the scriptural truth of the remaining sinfulness of the believer, but proved exegetically untenable; for example on page 475, line 5ff of the Book of Praise we read: 'We are deeply conscious of the fact that on account of our original sin, we are unclean before Thee and children of wrath'. The words: '... on account of our original sins, we are unclean before Thee and children of wrath' were left out, because we were unclean ... by original sin, but by God's grace are not so any longer, Eph.2:3;
- e. left out the text preceding and following the prayer before and after meals, because these texts are not part of the prayers themselves. On account of the private character of

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these prayers we also left out the Lord's prayer with which they close in the old version.

The Lord's prayer in the public prayers was originally meant to be used in unison by the congregation.

Close study of the prayers shows that the terminology used, is derived in many instances from Scripture passages. As, however, the prayers are not didactic in nature, no Scripture references were given in the margin.

On behalf of the Committee

L. Selles,

Reporter on the Section of Prayers.

A General Confession of Sins and Prayer Before  
the Sermon and on Days of Fasting and Prayer

O eternal God and merciful Father, we humble ourselves before thy great majesty, for we have frequently and grievously sinned against Thee. We acknowledge that if Thou shouldst enter into judgment with us, we would deserve nothing but <sup>eternal</sup> death. We are deeply conscious of the fact that we are conceived and born in sin, and that all manner of evil desires against Thee and our neighbour fill our soul. We continually transgress thy commandments, failing to do what Thou hast commanded us, and doing that which Thou hast expressly forbidden. We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. We acknowledge our waywardness, and are heartily sorry for all our sins. We confess that our transgressions are innumerable, and that we have nothing with which to repay our debt. Therefore we are not worthy to be called thy children, nor to lift up our eyes to Thee in heaven.

Nevertheless, O Lord God and gracious Father, we know that Thou dost not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he should turn to Thee and live. We know that thy mercy toward those who turn to Thee is infinite; and so we take courage to call upon Thee from the depths of our hearts, trusting in our Mediator Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Have compassion on us and forgive us all our sins for Christ's sake. Wash us in the pure fountain of his blood, so that we may become clean and white as snow. Cover our nakedness with <sup>His</sup> righteousness, for the glory of thy Name. Free our understanding from all blindness, and our hearts from all wilfulness and rebellion.

Open now the mouth of thy servant, and fill it with thy wisdom and knowledge, that he may boldly proclaim thy Word in all its purity.

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Prepare our hearts to receive it, to understand it, and to preserve it. Inscribe thy law, as Thou hast promised, upon the tablets of our hearts, and give us the desire and the strength to walk in the ways of thy precepts, to the praise and glory of thy Name, and to the edification of the church.

All this, gracious Father, we implore in the Name of Jesus Christ, thought us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, etc.

#### A PRAYER FOR ALL THE NEEDS OF CHRISTENDOM

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we are unworthy to come before Thee in prayer. Our consciences accuse us and our sins testify against us. We ~~also~~ know that Thou art a righteous judge who punishes the sins of those who transgress Thy commandments. \_\_\_\_\_

— But Thou, LORD, hast commanded us to call upon Thee in all our needs and hast in mercy promised to hear our petitions. We realize that this is not because of our merits, for we have none, but because of the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ whom Thou hast appointed as our Mediator and Advocate. Therefore we ~~have no use for any other help and are happy to~~ <sup>reject all</sup> take our refuge in Thy mercy alone.

Heavenly Father, Thou hast showered upon us so many blessings that we are not able to comprehend them, much less to count them. We especially thank Thee that Thou hast led us to the light of Thy truth and to the knowledge of Thy holy gospel. Time and again, however, we have ungratefully forgotten Thy benefits, departed from Thee and followed the desires of our own heart. We have not honoured Thee as we should have, ~~done,~~ <sup>but</sup> We have grievously sinned against Thee. If Thou ~~didst~~ <sup>shouldest</sup> bring us into judgment, we could expect nothing but condemnation and eternal death. But, LORD, look upon the face of Thy anointed, hide Thy eyes



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from our sins and remove Thy wrath through His intercession. Work in us mightily by Thy Spirit that He may daily put to death our sinful nature and renew us that we may serve Thee better.

As it pleases Thee that we pray for all mankind, we beseech, <sup>Thee</sup> bless the <sup>proclamation</sup> course of Thy holy gospel that it may be <sup>universally</sup> ~~prelaimed~~ and received. ~~universally.~~ May the whole world be filled with knowledge of Thee. Enlighten the ignorant, strengthen the weak; may everyone by word and deed magnify Thy holy Name. To this end send faithful servants into Thy harvest and equip them to discharge the duties of their office faithfully. Destroy, we pray Thee, all false teachers, fierce wolves and hirelings <sup>(do not care for Thy flock, but)</sup> who seek their own honour and profit rather than the honour of Thy holy Name and the salvation of men.

Graciously preserve and govern Thy christian churches throughout the world in the unity of true faith and in godliness of life that Thy kingdom may come day by day. Destroy the <sup>dominion</sup> ~~kingdom~~ of satan until the perfection of Thy kingdom arrives when Thou wilt be all in all. We pray for the mission among Jews, Moslems and heathen who live without hope and without Thee in the world. Grant Thy blessing on the propagation of the gospel among those who still call themselves Christians but have deviated from Thy truth in doctrine and life. Remember all christian instruction and all who are <sup>involved</sup> ~~engaged~~ in it. Bless all societies which, in accordance with Thy holy Word, seek to hallow Thy Name, to further Thy kingdom and to fulfil Thy will. Be with all christian institutions of mercy and grant those who work there, the full measure of love.

We also pray for the civil government, for our queen and her house and for all national, provincial and local magistrates whom Thou hast set in authority over us. ~~Grant that they~~ May perform their task in

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such a manner that the King of kings may rule over them and their subjects. May they As Thy servants, more and more oppose the kingdom of satan, which is a kingdom of lawlessness. Grant that under the shield of their government we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way.

We also pray for all our brethren who suffer persecution for the sake of Thy name and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Comfort them with Thy Holy Spirit and deliver them from the hands of their enemies. Permit not the memory of Thy Name to be removed from the earth. Let not the enemies of Thy truth have occasion to dishonour and blaspheme Thy Name. But if it is Thy will that persecuted christians by their death bear witness to Thy truth and glorify Thy Name, comfort them in their sufferings. May they accept their trials as from Thy fatherly hand and remain firm in life and death to Thy honour, to the edification of Thy church and to their salvation.

We ~~remember before~~ <sup>commit to</sup> Thee all those whom Thou art chastening with poverty, imprisonment, physical illness or spiritual distress. May it please Thee to heal the sick and to restore soundness of mind to the mentally ill. Surround with Thy care those who are handicapped in body or mind and bless all that is done to help them. Lift up those who are cast down. Be a Comforter to the widowers, a Protector to the widows, a Father to the orphans. Show Thy love to the lonely; Thy strength to the weak; Thy grace to the dying; Thy sustaining power to the bereaved. Grant that all trials may yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Glorify Thyself in the faith, love, and endurance of all those whom Thou hast called to Thy eternal glory in Christ.

Finally, LORD, take us and our dear ones into Thy care and keeping. Watch over our families. Strengthen the expectant mothers and grant

them a good delivery. Bless the bond between husbands and wives, parents and children. Be with those married couples whom Thou, in Thy wisdom, dost not give children. Bless them and cause them to be a blessing in the midst of Thy household.

Help us in our daily work, protect us when we travel. Bless all our endeavours for the promotion of Thy kingdom, for the benefit of our country or for the advancement of honourable personal interests. Bless also the products of the soil. Grant favourable weather and <sup>a/</sup> fruitful ~~increase~~ harvest.

Give that in our respective callings we may live according to Thy will. May we so use the talents which we have received from Thy hand that they may not hinder but rather promote our life in Thy kingdom. In all temptations strengthen us so that we fight the good fight of the faith, be victorious and hereafter with Christ possess eternal life.

We pray all this in the Name of our faithful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

He taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven.....

A PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SINS AND PRAYER BEFORE THE SERMON

Heavenly Father, eternal and merciful God, we acknowledge and confess before Thy divine majesty that we are poor miserable sinners. We were conceived and born in utter wickedness and corruption, ~~We~~ are inclined to all manner of evil and incapable by nature of doing any good. We ~~also~~ transgress Thy holy commandments continually. We grieve Thee by our sins and bring judgment ~~on~~ <sup>upon</sup> ourselves because of them. But, LORD, we are truly sorry for our sins which ~~provokes~~ <sup>continually</sup> Thy anger. We accuse ourselves and acknowledge that we are to blame for our sinfulness and transgressions. Yet, on the ground of the sufferings of Thy dear Son,



Jesus Christ, we plead for Thy mercy. Have compassion on us, gracious God and Father, and forgive us our sins for the sake of His death. Grant us also the grace of Thy Holy Spirit that He teach us to confess our sins sincerely and to know our <sup>miserable</sup> ~~wretchedness~~. May He so lead us that we die to sin, rise up to a new life and bring forth fruits of holiness and righteousness acceptable to Thee through Jesus Christ.

~~May it please Thee to make us understand Thy holy Word in accordance with Thy divine will, so that we may learn to put our trust in Thee alone and not in any creature. May our old nature with all its lusts increasingly be put to death day by day and may we present ourselves a living sacrifice to Thee, to the honour of Thy Name and the benefit of our neighbour.~~ <sup>rightly</sup>

We also beseech Thee, gracious God, to bring back to Thyself in true repentance all who depart from Thy truth, that we all with one accord may serve Thee through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven...

#### A BRIEF FORM OF PRAYER AFTER THE SERMON

We thank Thee, merciful God and Father, that Thou hast brought us to the knowledge of Thee and of Thy Son by Thy Spirit and Word and hast caused Thy Word to be proclaimed to us. Grant that, as we received Christ Jesus the Lord, we may so live in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as we were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. And as we do not obey Thy holy Word as we should, through ignorance, unthankfulness and discontent, we beseech Thee, o Lord, remember Thy great mercy and have compassion on us. Teach us truly to know our sins, sincerely to repent and to amend our life. Strengthen



the ministers of Thy church in order that they may faithfully and steadfastly preach Thy holy Word. Likewise, Lord, give strength to our rulers that they may wield the sword of civil authority in justice and equity.

We pray Thee ~~particularly~~ for N. *who* ...

Keep us, we beseech Thee, from all hypocrisy and unfaithfulness, and frustrate all evil and subtle designs against Thy Word and Thy Church. O Lord, do not withdraw from us Thy Word and ~~Thy~~ Spirit, but *make us grow* ~~grant us increase~~ in faith, and *give* ~~patience~~ and steadfastness in all suffering and adversity. Help and sustain Thy church, and deliver Thy people from opposition, ridicule, and tyranny. Impart ~~from on high~~ Thy strength to those ~~that~~ *who* are weak and ~~sorely~~ burdened with sorrow. Grant us Thy peace through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who gave us this sure promise: Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, He will give it to you in my name.

He taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,...

PRAYER BEFORE THE EXPLANATION OF THE CATECHISM

Heavenly Father, Thy Word is perfect, reviving the soul; Thy testimony is sure, making wise the simple. Thy gospel is ~~the~~ *the* power for salvation to everyone who believes. We, however, are by nature blind and incapable of doing any good. We beseech Thee, ~~therefore, that Thou wilt illumine our darkened minds with Thy Holy Spirit.~~ *to let the light of Thy Holy Spirit shine in our hearts.* Give us a humble heart, free from all conceit and worldly wisdom which is enmity against Thee, ~~so that, hearing thy Word, we may rightly understand it and let ourselves be governed by it.~~ *Help us to understand Thy Word that we may* Confirm us in our catholic and undoubted Christian faith. Wilt Thou also in Thy grace bring back those who

depart from Thy truth, that we all in <sup>true</sup> unity <sup>may</sup> serve Thee in ~~true~~ holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. We ask these things of Thee only for the sake of Christ. He taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,...

#### PRAYER AFTER THE EXPLANATION OF THE CATECHISM

Gracious God and merciful Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast established Thy covenant with the believers and their seed. Thou hast sealed this by holy baptism. Thou wilt also show it by teaching us Thy ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> and Thy ~~will~~ <sup>way</sup> in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thou hast given pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. We beseech Thee that Thou wilt continually grant us Thy grace, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. May we not be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine. Bless our homes. Endow the parents with Thy Spirit that they may ~~bring up~~ <sup>nurture</sup> their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. We pray Thee for all teaching based upon Thy Word, as confessed in the creeds of the church. Be with all who labour in it and provide them with knowledge and wisdom which is rooted in the fear of Thy Name. Put to shame the wise and prudent of this world and may, by the godliness of Thy people, the ~~kingdom~~ <sup>dominion</sup> of Satan be destroyed and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in this and in all Thy churches be strengthened to the glory of Thy holy Name and unto our salvation. All this we ask through Jesus Christ Thy Son. He taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,...

#### PRAYER BEFORE MEALS

Almighty God, faithful Father, Thou hast made the worlds, Thou dost uphold them by Thy powerful Word. Thou didst provide Israel in the

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desert with food from on high. Wilt Thou also bless us, Thy humble servants, and renew our strength by these gifts which, through our Lord Jesus Christ, we have received from Thy fatherly hand. Give that we may take them moderately. Help us to put them to use in a life devoted to Thee and Thy service. May we thus acknowledge that Thou art our Father and the source of all good things. Grant also that at all times we may long for the lasting food of Thy Word. May we thus be nourished to everlasting life which Thou hast prepared for us by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Saviour. In His name we pray. Amen.

#### THANKSGIVING AFTER MEALS

LORD God, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this food and drink and for Thy Word which we heard. We thank Thee that Thou wilt take care of us and wilt provide for all our needs. We are especially grateful that we have been born anew to the hope of a better life which Thou hast revealed to us in Thy holy gospel. We pray Thee, merciful God and Father, let our hearts not be weighed down by the cares of this life. Grant us Thy grace that in our daily tasks we may seek the things which are above, expecting our Saviour Jesus Christ who is coming with the clouds, for our deliverance.

We render our thanks and submit our prayer in His name, Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR THE SICK I

Righteous God and merciful Father. Thou art the Almighty, without whose will nothing occurs in heaven or on earth. Life and death are ~~also~~ in Thy hand.

We are not worthy to call upon Thee and we cannot hope that Thou wilt hear and answer us if Thou shouldst mark our iniquities and sins.



We pray Thee, therefore, look upon us according to Thy mercy in Christ Jesus who bore our griefs and who was wounded for our transgressions. We acknowledge that of ourselves we are incapable of doing any good and are inclined to all evil. On that account we are justly chastised and disciplined by Thee and <sup>we</sup>deserve even worse. But, Lord, Thou hast made us Thy people and Thou art our God. Thy mercy which Thou hast never withheld from those who turn to Thee, is our only refuge.

We pray, therefore, do not hold our sins against us but impute to us the satisfaction, righteousness and holiness of Christ so that we may stand in Him before Thee. grant us graciously, recovery, take this sickness and suffering from us and bless the means provided by Thee. But, if it please Thee to prolong our trial, give us patience and strength to bear it all according to Thy will. Thou art wise and good. May, whatever Thou decidest, serve for our sanctification.

Rather chastize us here, Lord, than that we should perish with the world thereafter. Grant that we forsake the world, crucify our old nature; give that we are more and more renewed after the image of Jesus Christ. Let us never be separated from Thy love, but draw us closer to Thee from day to day. Grant that thus we may with joy attain to the end of our calling which is to die with Christ, to rise with Him triumphantly and to live with Him eternally. We also believe that Thou wilt hear us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,...

PRAYER FOR THE SICK, II

Merciful God and Father, the eternal salvation for the living and the eternal life of the dying. Life and death are in Thy hands. Thou continually carest for us in such a way that <sup>neither</sup> health nor sickness, good nor evil can befall us, yea, not even a hair can fall from our heads,

without Thy will. Thou so orderest all things that they work for the good of the believers.

We beseech Thee that Thy Holy Spirit may teach us to know our misery and to bear patiently Thy chastisements. If they ~~would be~~<sup>were</sup> according to our merits, they ~~might~~<sup>would</sup> have been infinitely more severe. We believe that they are no evidence of Thy wrath but of Thy fatherly love that we may not be condemned with the world.

Strengthen, LORD, our faith by Thy Holy Spirit so that we become more and more united with Christ, our Head, to Whom Thou wantest to conform us both in suffering and glory. Enable us to bear what Thou bringest over us in Thy fatherly wisdom. We submit ourselves entirely to Thy will whether Thou wilt leave us yet on earth or whether Thou wilt take us home unto Thyself. We trust that with body and soul, both in life and death, we do belong to Christ, whose resurrection is the guarantee of our blessed resurrection.

Grant that we may experience the comfort of the remission of sins through Jesus Christ. May His innocent blood wash away the uncleanness of our sins and may His righteousness cover our unrighteousness in Thy last judgment. Arm us with faith and hope that we overcome the assaults of Satan and are not put to shame by any fear of death. Give us always good confidence in Thee, our faithful God and Father, trusting that death nor life, neither things present nor things to come are able to separate us from Thy fatherly love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Father, we commit our spirit into Thy hands. Deal with us according to Thy promise that Thou wilt never forsake us, but wilt always be with us, even in the hour of death. Hear and answer us for Christ, our Saviour's sake. He taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,...

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Morning Prayer.

*for watching over us*

Merciful Father, we thank Thee ~~that Thou hast watched on us in this~~  
 past night, ~~refreshed us through the rest we received and giving~~  
 us strength to begin a new day. Provide, we pray Thee, for all  
 our needs so that we may walk before Thee in holiness and right-  
 ousness this day and all the days of our life. Equip us for our  
 work. ~~Bless us so that we may have~~ <sup>Give us</sup> our daily bread ~~and are also that~~  
<sup>we are also</sup> able to promote the cause of Thy church and Kingdom. May Thy ser-  
 vice and glory be <sup>fore</sup> ~~upper~~most in our minds and <sup>may</sup> ~~give that~~ we expect  
 all success of our plans and endeavours from Thy Fatherly hand  
 alone.

Grant us Thy grace to lay aside every weight and sin which clings  
 so closely and to run with perseverance the race that is set be-  
 fore us. Make the preaching of Thy word fruitful here and on the  
 mission field. Bless all instruction given according to Thy Word ~~and~~  
<sup>strengthen</sup> ~~Be with~~ all faithful labourers in Thy harvest.

We pray for those whom Thou hast set over us that they may rule  
 us according to Thy calling as servants of Thee, the King of  
 Kings and Lord of Lords.

Give endurance to all who are persecuted on account of their faith  
 and deliver them from their enemies. ~~Frustrate~~ <sup>Destroy</sup> all the works of  
 the devil.

Comfort the distressed and show Thy mercy and help to all those  
 who call upon Thy Holy Name in sickness and all the troubles of  
 life.

Deal with us and with all Thy people according to Thy grace in  
 Christ Jesus who assured us that whatever we ask in His Name  
 He will do it.

Hear us for His sake, Amen.



Evening Prayer

hast given us

Merciful God, eternal Light in whom ~~there~~ is no darkness at all, we draw <sup>near</sup> ~~nigh~~ to Thee at the end of this day. We thank Thee that Thou ~~we received~~ strength for our daily work and that Thou hast guided us safely through this day. Bless what was good in our labour and conduct. ~~Cover, we pray Thee,~~ the sins we committed, In Thy mercy, as Thou coverest the earth in <sup>the</sup> darkness of ~~the~~ night. Cast us not from Thy sight into outer darkness. Thou givest the day for work and the night for sleep; grant us, therefore, a good night's rest that we may wake up in good health and ~~may~~ be able to take up our daily task again. Command Thy angels to guard us and let Thy face shine upon us. We cast all our anxieties on Thee, for Thou carest about us. Grant comfort and rest to all who are <sup>ill</sup> ~~sick~~, bowed down by grief and afflicted by anguish and distress.

Thy steadfast love, o LORD endures for ever. Do not forsake the work of Thy hands.

All this we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

Opening Prayer for the Meetings of the Deacons.

Merciful God and Father, Thou hast not only declared that we shall always have the poor with us, but hast also commanded us to support them in their need. Thou hast ordained the service of deacons for Thy church in order that the needy members may receive the necessary support. Thou hast called us to the office of deacon in this congregation. ~~We~~ <sup>and we</sup> are now assembled in Thy Name to deal with the matters pertaining to our office. We humbly beseech Thee to dwell among us with the spirit of discretion. May He lead us to those <sup>in true need</sup> ~~really poor~~ and help us to distribute the alms that have been collected, as each one's need may render necessary, in a spirit of joy, ~~and~~ fidelity *and liberality.* Kindle fervent love to the needy in the hearts of Thy people ~~so~~ that they may generously contribute of their possessions entrusted to them as Thy stewards. Grant us sufficient means to bring relief to the needy. May we discharge the duties of our office as ministers of ~~the~~ mercy of Christ's. Give us Thy grace to relieve want by means of material gifts and



∠ Thee,

to instill the comfort of Thy holy Word into the hearts of the afflicted, ~~so~~ that they may put their trust in Thee alone. Bless we pray ∠ our ministrations and multiply the bread of the poor that both they and we may ~~have reason to~~ praise and thank Thee, while we await the blessed appearance of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. He became poor for our sake that He might enrich us with eternal treasures. In His Name we pray, Amen.

Opening Prayer for Ecclesiastical Assemblies.

Heavenly Father, merciful God, it has pleased Thee to gather a church for Thyself out of the peoples of ~~all~~ the earth through Thy Word and Spirit and to govern her through the service of men. Thou hast graciously called us to <sup>be</sup> officebearers in Thy church and hast charged us to take heed to ourselves and to the flock which Christ bought with His precious blood.

In Thy name we are now together in this place to deal with the matters which shall come before us ~~and~~ concerning the edification and ~~the~~ welfare of Thy church(es) and to do so in an ecclesiastical manner. We realize that we are unworthy and unable of ourselves to think, speak <sup>or</sup> and accomplish any good. We beseech Thee, therefore, that Thy Holy Spirit may govern us in our deliberations and decisions and may lead us into Thy truth.

Keep all misunderstanding away from us and ~~let us be on guard~~ <sup>us</sup> against the sinful inclinations of our hearts. May Thy Word be our only rule and standard so that our work may be to Thy glory, serve the wellbeing of Thy church(es) and our consciences may be at peace.

We ask this in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep. Amen.

Closing Prayer for Ecclesiastical Assemblies.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank Thee that in the gathering and preservation of Thy church in our country Thou art pleased to use our service. Thou ~~doest~~<sup>hast</sup> graciously so order<sup>ed</sup> all things that Thy gospel is preached without hindrance and that we may engage in public worship and in ecclesiastic<sup>al</sup> assemblies. At the close of this present meeting we humbly ask forgiveness for the shortcomings and sins which did not remain hidden from Thy eyes and we bring thanks for the good we received from Thy fatherly hand.

Wilt Thou, o faithful God and Father, bless all decisions taken in agreement with Thy Holy Word and wilt Thou fulfill Thy purpose for Thy church(es). Preserve Thy church by the purity of doctrine, by the proper administration and use of the sacraments and by the faithful exercise of church discipline.

Destroy all wicked counsels conceived against Thy Word and church *and* ~~strengthen~~ the ministers to preach ~~Thy~~ gospel boldly and steadfastly.

Give perseverance to the overseers and the deacons that they may be a blessing to Thy people through the faithful administration of their offices.

Bless the queen and her house.

So govern the civil magistrates that they rule in justice and with wise restraint. May their rule be directed to the supremacy of Thee, the King of rulers and ruled alike. Let in this way the shameful and wicked dominion of satan be increasingly broken down and may we lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way.

Hear us, O God and Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

