St Stephen's Church Timonium, Maryland



A Collect for the Rapture

O LORD, All-Knowing and Unknowable God, whose Son hath warned that he shall return like a thief in the night, and that no man on earth, nor any angel in heaven, knoweth the time of his coming, but only thee: Save us from arrogancy and pride, and from vain presumption; for not every man that crieth, "Lord, Lord", shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Grant us to accept the choice which thou hast foreordained for us, that they who lead the way may walk in humility, and a full understanding of their unworthiness; and that they who follow may persevere in faith, and in the knowledge of thy mercy and loving–kindness. For though one in the field shall be taken, and the other left, yet are both sinners, and precious in the sight of the Lord. And this we beg in the name of Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Aid against All Gullibility

O GOD, who seest the wise man and the simple, the clever man and the fool: Grant us to believe upon thy Holy Word with the faith of children, yet grant us also the wisdom to discern the folly of false prophets; and save us from false shepherds who would lead thy faithful flock astray. For where faith is weak, doubt creepeth in, and vanity leadeth to destruction; but where faith is strong, the good man possesseth an unassailable trust in the Lord, and succumbeth not to deception. All this we ask in the name of the one True Shepherd, the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.