

For the Victims of Genocide (International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January)

Almighty God, gracious Father: we remember before thee this day all those who have perished in genocides, *especially those who died in X**. Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to sear into our memories the story of their peril, lest we forget their anguish and tribulations. Embolden us with thy Holy Ghost to confront those who would repeat such acts, whether brazenly or cunningly; open our mouths to speak for those in peril, lest they perish unheralded as did their predecessors; grant us to stand with the persecuted, and to protect them from their oppressors, that all thy people may dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

** in the Holocaust [the Shoah], or in the Holodomor in Ukraine, for example.*

A Collect for Purity

From A Manual of Devotions for Choristers and Schoolboys (1848) in use at Magdalen College, Oxford, changed to first person plural for public use.

Cleanse us, O Lord, and keep us undefiled, that we may be numbered among those blessed children, who having washed their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb, stand before thy throne, and serve thee day and night in thy temple. *Amen.*

The Westminster Abbey Prayer

This prayer is inscribed in the foundation of Westminster Abbey, London. It is a slight modification of the College Grace of University College, Oxford (which includes the Sovereign with the Church and the realm).

May God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church and the world, peace and concord; and to us sinners eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For our Enemies

From The Armed Forces Prayer Book (1951).

O Saviour of the world, our Redeemer, whose love embraceth all mankind: We hear thy prayer from the Cross, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Forgive, O Lord, those who have poured out the innocent blood and caused suffering in the world. May our prayers be for them a ministry of reconciliation. We ask it, O Lord Jesus Christ, in thine own name. *Amen.*

For a Soul in Distress

Heavenly Father, whose Son was ever ready to search for the one lost sheep: have mercy upon thy servant *N.*, who hath lost *his* way. Assuage *his* fears, cool *his* anger, soothe *his* sorrow, and fill *his* heart with hope and grace. Lead him back to the warm embrace of *his* family, and grant us to love *him* as fully as doth thy son Jesus, that we may give each other comfort; through the same Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd of our souls. *Amen.*

For Veterans Suffering from PTSD

Almighty Father, our help and our shield: look with mercy upon thy servants who have suffered in the service of our country. Soothe their distress, and grant them a sure recovery from the wounds of heart and mind and spirit. Grant also that we, who have asked them to do so much for us, should not fail them in their time of need. All this we ask for the love of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For Faithfulness

From the English Proposed Book of Common Prayer (1928).

Remember, O Lord, what thou hast wrought in us, and not what we deserve; and as thou hast called us to thy service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*