

PRAYERS

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Prayers by Caroline Wilson

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CAROLINE WILSON

PRAYERS

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BY

THE AUTHOR OF "THE LISTENER."

"CHRIST OUR LAW," &c.

Christ's Will

Christ's Law



Seeley's.

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PRAYERS.

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SUNDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Father, and most merciful God! Every returning Sabbath brings a fresh sense of thy wisdom and goodness—of our own unworthy and unthankful waste of many opportunities and means of grace. We earnestly desire to use this day aright—we desire to fix and concentrate our thoughts on Thee, to separate ourselves from all worldly occupations and companionship—to put aside all earthly cares and feelings. O give us help, we beseech thee, so to do! Gracious Lord, thou hast made a feast, but we cannot eat of it, except thou give us appetite. We can stay our hands from labour, but we cannot put our hearts to rest—we cannot pray without thy Holy Spirit, or hear to profit, without thy light be in us.

Pour thou abundantly thy grace upon us! that we may realize thy presence in thy house, and taste of the preciousness of Jesus Christ—become deeply sensible of our sins, and assured of pardon and of peace in Him!

Put away from us all prejudice, and pride of heart, that we may receive thy word with a humble, teachable and thankful spirit. It is of thee alone, O God, to give value to thy holy ordinances; to impart truth to the preacher, and faith to the hearer of thy Gospel. Oh! send it this day with power amongst us, that our souls may be fed, and our hearts may be comforted—our sins be reproved, and our unbelief be made ashamed.

We look back with penitence and grief of heart upon the days, and weeks, and years, that we have lived without thee, or, serving thee with our lips, have in our hearts denied thee. It is of thy free mercy in Jesus Christ if our hearts have been changed, and turned to serve thee in spirit and in truth. Oh! perfect the work thou hast begun, and make us worthy, and make us ready for thine eternal Sabbath. Let thy truth be this day as the falling dews of heaven, to refresh and fructify our souls, that we may grow in the knowledge and the likeness of our blessed Lord and Saviour, in whom alone, we hope to stand justified before thee, or to have access to thee.

Lord! hear us for his sake; hear thy servants for each other, and hear us for them that pray not for

themselves. Let there be joy in Heaven this day, over the sinner that repenteth ; over the penitent accepted, and the lost restored ! and to Thee be the glory and the praise of all ; O Eternal Trinity—Father, Son and Spirit, one and only God. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

We bless thee, O thou most good and gracious God, for all that thou hast done and spoken to us this day in thy holy Sabbath service—for the encouragement thou hast given the sinner to return to thee and the believer to trust himself wholly to thy love—for thy word read, for thy Gospel preached—for the comforts of thy Spirit, and communion with thyself in Christ (and in his body and blood by faith partaken of.)

We bless thee, we praise thee for what thou hast bestowed and promised for his sake—the knowledge and pardon of our sins, the hope and foretaste of Eternal Life, and we implore thy pardon, merciful God, for all that thou hast seen or heard in us, miserable sinners,—our disturbed devotions, and unsettled faith. We acknowledge the unworthiness of all that we have done, and our utter inability to do anything as we ought. We have not, we never shall have, any power in ourselves to help ourselves, or do thee worthy service. O do thou accept us in Jesus thy

own beloved—cleanse us in his blood, and bring us through Him, and with Him, to thy Eternal Sabbath.

Fix deeply in our hearts, we beseech thee, whatever we have this day gained in knowledge, or experience of thy truth—determine us now to devote ourselves more entirely to thy service—to amend our lives, and walk henceforth in the way of thy commandments—that we may go to rest in love and peace, in quietness and contentment with thee, and with ourselves, and with all creatures, and all things around us—sanctified by the intervention of thine own infinite goodness and mercy, and by the spiritual blessings with which thou hast encouraged and refreshed us.

And grant us, O Lord God, amid the temptations and distractions of the coming week, such a remembrance of the converse of our souls with thee, as will support us in every trial, and restrain us from every sin ; and in all worldly intercourse and occupation, keep us from the denial of thy name.

O blessed Jesus, crucified Redeemer, we do desire and determine to take thy name upon us, and wear it in the sight of all men—dead with thee to sin and to the world, that we may live with thee in newness of life, and attain to everlasting rest in thee, Father, Son and Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful and righteous God, look down upon us, and accept our prayers! Day by day thou hast fed us; night by night thou hast protected us! Our hearts are full with the sense of thy goodness, and our own unworthiness of all thy bounty. We thank thee, we bless thee, O Lord, that we have risen this day in health, peace and safety, and pray thee to enable us to spend it to thy glory,—to remember that we are not our own,—to do to others, as we would have them do to us, and walk as becomes the followers of Jesus in an ungodly world. Oh God, thou knowest what it is in our minds to do—if there be any unrighteous purpose in our hearts, any proud designs, or vain desires, or sinful anticipations, turn us, we beseech thee, from our purpose, and stay our hands, and purify our thoughts, and forgive us, and prevent us in all our guilty schemes—open our minds to receive, and our lips to speak thy truth—make our families to be partakers with us of thy grace, and members of thy family. Give us to rejoice together in the pardon of our sins, and the assurance of everlasting life—to walk together in one faith and one spirit in Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit, guide and comfort us. Blessed Jesus, justify and save us. Heavenly Father, own us and accept us now in this