

PRA YERS FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS

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Prayers for the Use of Schools by N. Tillinghast

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N. TILLINGHAST

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USE OF SCHOOLS**

N. Tillinghast.
P R A Y E R S

FOR

THE USE OF SCHOOLS.

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INTRODUCTION.

THERE are many teachers who desire to open their schools with prayer, who, in the solitudes of their chambers, do not fail to ask of God help in the performance of their daily duties, and who know how beautiful is the influence throughout the day of a sincere act of morning worship, and yet who, from various causes, do not feel willing to trust themselves to give utterance, in the presence of others, to their religious feelings. It not unfrequently happens, also, that those who are accustomed to lead in public prayer, find themselves in such a frame of mind, at the opening of their schools, that either the thought or the expression does not come freely to them, and they want some assistance in performing a service which cannot either be well omitted or postponed. It is in the hope of aiding such teachers that this collection of prayers is now published.

And the author may be allowed to present another reason for the publication; he has read these prayers for more than ten years in his own school, leading, he trusts, the devotion of many hundreds of pupils; and he cannot but believe that this volume will bring to many minds a pleasant and grateful remembrance of those seasons, when we together communed with the Father of our spirits. May His favor be with this publication, and may He grant that it shall prosper in the cause for which it is sent into the world.



PRAYERS FOR SCHOOLS.

ISAIAH LV.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who, by thy power, didst create, and by thy mercy and wisdom hast upheld and guided us all our days, we desire to return thee our most hearty and humble thanks for all the blessings with which thou hast surrounded us: We thank thee for life, and for the innumerable mercies with which our lives are filled: We thank thee that thou hast made us after thine own image, and hast bid us aspire to no less perfection than thine: We thank thee that thine inspiration has given us understanding so that we may in some measure read thy works, and see thee, the Father of wisdom, exhibiting thyself in them all: We thank thee for the declaration of thy Holy Writ, that, as the rain and snow come down from heaven and return not thither, but water the earth, so that it brings forth seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, so shall thy word be; that it shall not return to thee void, but shall prosper in the thing whereto thou didst send it. Grant, Almighty Father, that in our respective spheres, we may prove not unworthy ministers of this creative word: Grant that we may not have assembled this day in vain; but with deep gratitude to thee, and to the instruments whom thou hast raised up for the establishment of these means of learning, may we each, and all, set ourselves to the performance of our respective duties with earnestness, simplicity, and a godly sincerity. We ask and offer all in the name, and as the disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and through him ascribe to thee all honor, and glory, world without end. AMEN.

LUKE IX. 28-48.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our most merciful Father, we thank thee for the mercy which again assembles us together: we thank thee for continued life, and for renewed light; but above all things, we thank thee for the offer of eternal life through Jesus Christ. May we learn that he is the life; that until we know him, we are truly dead; and that when he is formed in our hearts, we truly live. Assist us to learn that this mortal existence is only the field in which we are to acquire moral strength; that here we are to contend faithfully and earnestly with spiritual wickedness, within and without, and learn to overcome it. We must, by the order of thy providence, enter into this cloud of trial and temptation; may we so strive that when it passes away, we may see the face of Jesus Christ, in all its glory, shining upon us. Grant that the duties of life may be to us as thy voice directing our steps: May the blessings of life, be to us as the breathings of thy paternal kindness: And may we regard the trials through which we must pass, as merciful warnings to us against setting our affections on things below. May that pure and undefiled religion which is pleasing to thee, be in us, which will teach us to comfort and relieve the afflicted, and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. May the gifts which thou hast bestowed upon us, be hallowed in their use: May all who come within the circle of our influence, find it an assistance to them in their struggle for virtue. And may the grace of God, the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us, now and forever. AMEN.

JAMES II.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we, thy weak and ignorant creatures, come to thee, trying to render worthy thanks for thy mercies, and to ask a right for thy blessing. Grant us of thine infinite mercy, a portion of that faith which has distinguished thy prophets and saints, since the world began. May we remember, that "without faith, it is impossible to please thee; for he that cometh to God, must believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him:" And may we "add to this faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity;" so that our lives may be passed in thy fear, our duty done to thine acceptance, and we prove ourselves worthy of that high vocation wherewith thou hast called us in Jesus Christ. Not for ourselves only, would we pray to thee, but for every one who needs the blessings for which we ask. May the afflicted everywhere, have the consolations of thy Gospel: May the sick be healed of their infirmities, or be prepared for death: May the knowledge of thy truth be spread abroad over the whole earth; and may thy will be done here, as it is in heaven: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. AMEN.