

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S
SUPPER EXPLAIN'D: OR, THE THINGS TO
BE KNOWN AND DONE, TO MAKE A
WORTHY COMMUNICANT. WITH
SUITABLE PLAYERS AND MEDITATIONS**

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The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Explain'd: Or, the Things to be Known and Done, to Make a Worthy Communicant. With Suitable Players and Meditations by Edmund Gibson

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EDMUND GIBSON

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WORTHY COMMUNICANT.
With Suitable
PRAYERS
AND
MEDITATIONS.

First drawn up for the Use of the Inhabitants of
the Parish of LAMBETH, and now Revised
and Enlarged,

BY

The Right Reverend Father in God,
EDMUND GIBSON, D.D.
Late Lord Bishop of LONDON.

NEW EDITION.

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TO THE
INHABITANTS
Of the PARISH of
L A M B E T H.

My BRETHREN,

*THE two things which above all
others help to preserve in Christ-
ians a Spirit of Religion and a
Reverence of Almighty God, are Daily
Prayer, and the Frequent Receiving of
the Holy Sacrament. No Person who
duly attends these two Offices, can be un-
acquainted with God and his Soul; and I*

B

may

may add, that whoever lives in the Neglect of them, lives in an habitual Forgetfulness of God and his Duty; or at best, is Lukewarm and Indifferent in the Concerns of Religion.

It is not many Months since I put into your Hands an Exhortation to Family-Prayer, with two forms of Morning and Evening-Prayer for Families; fitted also for the Use of one Person in private. And the good Effects which I find that has had among you, encourages me to add this Exhortation to the Frequent Receiving of the Lord's Supper, together with a plain Account of the Nature and Benefits of that holy Institution, and such Helps and Directions, as may conduce to make you worthy Partakers of it.

There are many Books already written upon this Subject; and it is not my Meaning to perswade you to lay aside such as
you

you have been accustom'd to, if they be suited to your Condition and Circumstances. My only Design is, to provide proper Instructions and Assistances for those who have none; that those who are religiously disposed may see the Obligations they are under to come to the Lord's Table, and the manner in which they are to prepare themselves for it; and that others who have really no Inclination to come, may not be able to plead the Want of proper Assistances, as a Reason and Excuse for their keeping away.

I have endeavour'd to make it plain, and short, and comprehensive, in order to make it of more general Use; which seems not to have been regarded enough, in the greatest Part of the Books that have been written upon this Subject. For some taking it for granted, that the Nature and Design of this Institution are sufficiently understood

understood by most Christians, have judg'd it unnecessary to spend Time in explaining it: And others have begun at the Preparations for receiving it; forgetting the Slowness of Christians in coming to the Lord's Table, and the Scruples, Pretences, and Excuses, by which they endeavour to justify that Neglect. Others again, having set forth the Necessity of Examining our Lives in order to it, do omit, for Brevity's sake, the particular Heads of Duty to be examin'd upon, tho' that, in Truth, seems to be the most necessary Part of our Preparation, and not to be perform'd aright (especially by Persons engaged in the Cares of the World) without some Assistances of that Kind.

On the other Hand, several of the Books upon this Subject are very large, and fram'd only for the Use of Persons who are at Liberty to be long and often in their Closets.