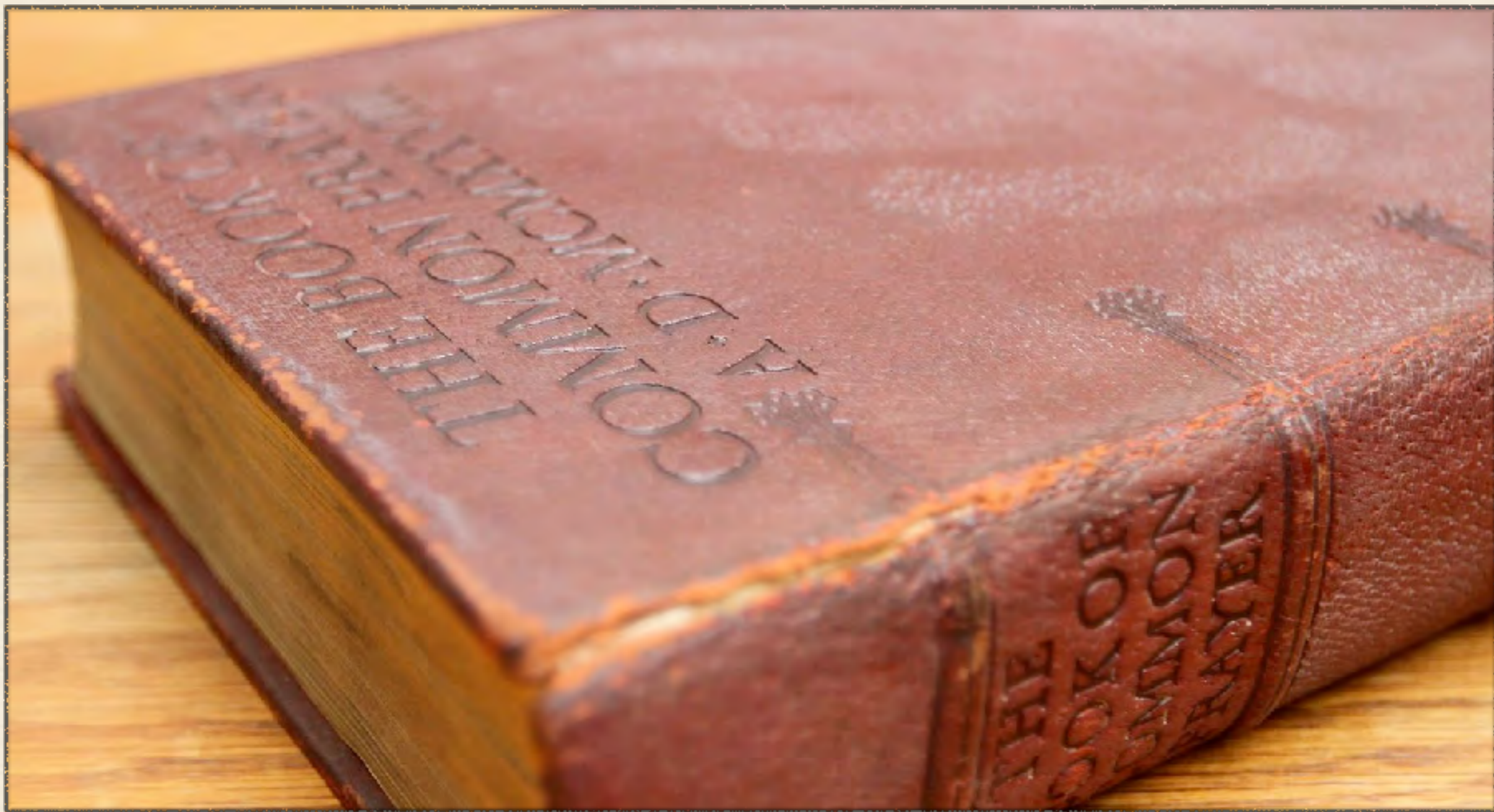


Fat Prayers

The Liturgical Tradition - Turning Scripture into Prayer



The Prayer Book as a School for Prayer

*Familiar words, known in advance, are made incandescent,
as it were, by the ardour of individual devotion.*

—L. E. H. Stephens-Hodge, *The Collects* (1961)

The Development of the Western Liturgical Form of Prayer: the *oration* or *collect*

- ❖ The term “collect” goes back to the 6th century, and the actual prayers go back even further
- ❖ Unique to the Western Church
- ❖ Included in Sacramentaries, or service books for priests
- ❖ Thomas Cranmer adapted these, and added others, for the Anglican Book of Common Prayer

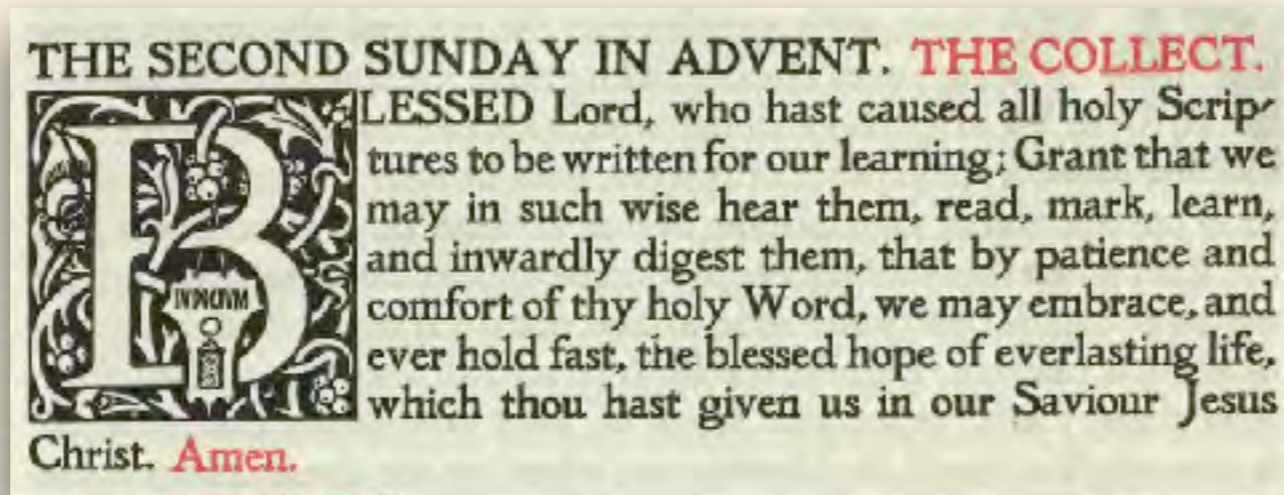


The Character of Collects as Liturgical Prayers

- ❖ biblical and doctrinal
- ❖ catholic and reformed
- ❖ liturgical and seasonal
- ❖ corporate and individual
- ❖ contrite and aspirational
- ❖ aesthetic and literary



The Form of Prayer in a Collect



1. The Address
2. The Acknowledgement (Doctrine or Theme)
3. The Petition
4. The Aspiration
5. The Pleading

The Collect for Purity

1. Almighty God
2. unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid,
3. cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
4. that we may perfectly love thee and worthily magnify thy holy name,
5. through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fourth Sunday after Easter

**O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Fourth Sunday after Easter

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Fourth Sunday after Easter

**O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Fourth Sunday after Easter

**O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

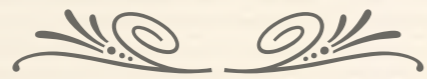
Fourth Sunday after Easter

**O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Fourth Sunday after Easter

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; **through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Practice



Your Turn



Ash Wednesday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.]

Ash Wednesday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.]

Ash Wednesday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.]

Ash Wednesday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we **worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.]**

Second Sunday in Advent

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Second Sunday in Advent

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Second Sunday in Advent

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Second Sunday in Advent

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord.

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord.

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord.

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord.

Turning Scripture into Prayer: Doctrinal and Salvation-Historical Prayer

Past → Present → Future

Doctrine → Petition → Aspiration

Faith → Love → Hope

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

PAST

O GOD, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

PRESENT

O GOD, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: **Pour into our hearts such love toward thee,** that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, **that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

FUTURE

Psalm 1

Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

Psalm 1

You might respond in prayer this way:

O God, whose son Jesus was alone the truly blessed man, strengthen me this day to delight in the way of Jesus rather than in the way of sinners, that I might be like that tree planted by the river of water, sharing in the blessedness of Jesus and bearing fruit in all seasons, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Psalm 1

You might respond in prayer this way:

O God, **whose** son Jesus was alone the truly blessed man, **strengthen** me this day to delight in the way of Jesus rather than in the way of sinners, **that** I might be like that tree planted by the river of water, sharing in the blessedness of Jesus and bearing fruit in all seasons, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Psalm 1

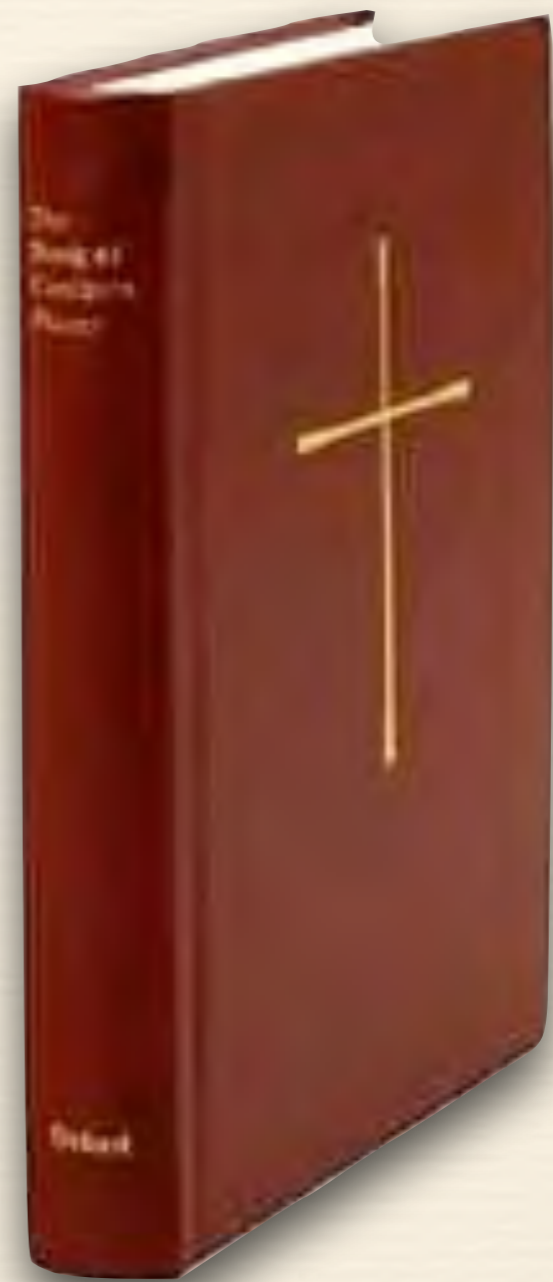
Or, less formally:

Dear God, you alone can make our lives a blessing. Help me to avoid sinful habits and instead to follow your will, after the example of Jesus, so that I might bear lasting spiritual fruit in my life, and please you now and forever. In Jesus name. Amen.

Practice



Your Turn



Matthew 11: 25-28 (NIV)

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Your Response

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Thinking Critically

- ❖ What is more biblical: praying a set form of words or homemade, extempore prayers?
- ❖ What are the strengths and weaknesses of each mode?
- ❖ What is the right balance between structure and freedom?

