

The 1789 Book of Common Prayer,
Formatted as the original

We are presenting this electronic version of the U. S. 1789 Book of Common Prayer in hopes that it will prove useful and instructive to the Church. Parishes might find it useful in recreating historical services, for example, to celebrate the anniversary of the parish. Others might find it instructive to compare the changes, additions, and deletions, which have taken place in the various versions of the Book of Common Prayer.

The 1789 Book of Common Prayer was in use in the United States from 1790 until 1892. During that time there were minor changes in the Book. The text used here bears a certification date of 1856, and so will reflect any of these minor changes made between 1789 and then.

The original text is about 6 X 4" in size, or somewhat smaller than the current Book of Common Prayer. As this is not a common size today, it has been reformatted to fill an 8.5 X 11" sheet of paper, two columns, landscape. The pagination, however, is unchanged, so that the type is thus somewhat larger than the original. The font used is Century 731; this seems to be a good match to the original to my untrained eye. Note that a great many editions by a great many publishers of this 1789 Prayer Book were printed, all with somewhat differing formats. The font used, number of columns per page, etc. were not standardized, unlike subsequent prayer books. Thus the appearance of other 1789 Prayer

Books will likely be different from what you see here. The edition here (published by the New York Bible and Common Prayer Society in 1865) was chosen because is fairly common and seemed typical of Prayer Books of the post-Civil War era.

You may redistribute this document electronically provided no fee is charged and this header remains part of the document. While every attempt was made to ensure accuracy, certain errors may exist in the text.

This document was created by:

Charles Wohlers
16 Pearl St.
East Bridgewater, Mass. 02333
chadwohl@satucket.com

A FORM OF
PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

TO ALMIGHTY GOD,

For the fruits of the earth, and all the other blessings of his merciful Providence; to be used yearly on the FIRST THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER, or on such other day as shall be appointed by the Civil Authority.

¶ *The service shall be as usual, except where it is hereby otherwise appointed.*

¶ *Among the Sentences at the beginning of Morning Prayer shall be the following.*

HONOUR the LORD with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase; so shall thy barns be filled with plenty; and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. *Prov. iii. 9, 10.* -

The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens: by his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. *Prov. iii. 19, 20.*

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deut. xxxiii. 27.*

Israel then shall dwell in safety alone; the fountain of Jacob shall be upon the land of corn and of wine, also his heaven shall drop down dew. *Deut. xxxiii. 28.*

Happy art thou, O Israel; who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency? *Deut. xxxiii. 29.*

¶ *Instead of O come let us sing, &c., the following shall be said or sung.*

PRAISE ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto God; for it is pleasant, and praise is comely.

The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel.

He healeth those that are broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

He covereth the heaven with clouds, and prepareth rain for the earth; he maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains.

He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Sion.

For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee.

He maketh peace in thy borders, and tilleth thee with the finest of the wheat.

¶ *Then shall be said or sung one of the Selections, or some other portion of the Psalms, at the discretion of the Minister.*

¶ *The first Lesson shall be Deut. viii, and the Second Lesson shall be 1 Thess. v. 12 to 24.*

¶ *After the General Thanksgiving, shall be said this which followeth.*

MOST gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew; We yield thee unfeigned thanks and praise, as for all thy mercies, so especially for the returns of seed-time and harvest, and for crowning the year with thy goodness, in the increase of the ground and the gathering in of the fruits thereof. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of this great mercy; such as may appear in our lives, by an humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all glory and honour, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *The Collect to be used instead of that for the day.*

OMOST merciful Father, who hast blessed the labours of the husbandman in the returns of the fruits of the earth; We give thee humble and hearty thanks for this thy bounty; beseeching thee to continue thy loving-kindness to us; that our land may still yield her increase, to thy glory and our comfort; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle. St. James i 16.

DO not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above; and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the ingrafted word, which is able to save your souls. Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

The Gospel. St. Matt. v.43.

YE have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? Or if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.