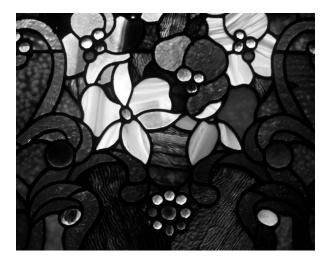
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This project was funded by donations made to the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation





Recognition This book for our patients was developed by the staff of the Pastoral Gare Department. It was our intention to provide a book that would enable patients from a variety of faith traditions and backgrounds to find words of comfort and prayer. It is our hope that these prayers may bring you a sense of peace.





Today, O Lord, I begin a new day in the hospital and I'm just a little afraid and nervous about it.

Help me to remember that this hospital has been built to help me in this time of need.

May I also realize that the doctors and nurses desire to help me get well.

May I find in this strange world of sickness much love and perhaps many new insights.

But above all, may I hear Your footfalls along the corridors and feel Your presence by my bed day and night.

So I stay in the hospital without fear and with perfect confidence.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Christian Tradition)

O God of all hope, as I renew this new day I would rest myself in You.

Whatever might happen during this day is in Your hands.

Strengthen me in my weakness, give skill to those who minister to me and grant me confidence and faith in Your healing power.

Through Christ my Lord, I pray. Amen.

I give thanks unto You, O God, That in mercy, You have restored my soul within me.

Endless is Your compassion; Great is Your faithfulness.

I thank You, God, for the rest You have given me through the night and the breath that renews my body and spirit.

May I renew my soul with faith in You, source of life's healing.

(Jewish Tradition)

To the Buddha, Dharma and the Sangha, Until Enlightenment I go for refuge. By my practice of generosity and the other virtues, May I realize Buddhahood for the benefit of all.

(Buddhist Tradition)

In the name of Allah, the most Merciful, the most Kind.

All praise is for Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, the most Merciful, the most Kind; Master of the day of Judgment.

You alone we worship: and You alone we ask for help.

Guide us along the straight way – The way of those You have favored and not of those who earn Your anger nor of those who go astray.

(Muslim Tradition)





Healing.

Solessed be Thou, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Who has kept me in fife, ...sustained me and restored me to health. (Christian Tradition)

Dear Lord, You who are the great Physician, I turn to You in my sickness... asking You to help me.

Put Your hand upon me, as You did in the long ago and let health and wholeness come into me from You.

I put myself under Your care and affirm my faith that even now Your marvelous healing grace is making me strong again.

I know that I ask more than I deserve, but You never measure our benefits on that basis. You just love us back into health.

Do that for me, I earnestly ask, and I will try to serve You more faithfully. This I promise through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Christian Tradition)

*O* Holy Spirit, Giver of life, Helper and Friend, Source of all good gifts, Bring peace and comfort to me. Amen.

May He who blessed our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, grant me His blessed healing and give me the patience, hope and courage to withstand the pains of my illness.

May God so endow the physician with insight and skill that I be soon restored to perfect health of body and mind and return in joy to my loved ones.

May I value the blessings of health and render thanks unto God, the merciful healer, the source of all blessing.

(Jewish Tradition)

Lord, like Peter's mother-in-law, I can no longer do the things I love to do.

Illness takes so much away. Give me strength to live and work again; to use my talents for others enriching life around me.

You know our weakness and the sufferings we endure. If it is Your will make me well.

Strengthen me in mind and heart; take me by the hand and raise me up. Amen

(Christian Tradition)

My Soul's Healer

Keep me at evening, Keep me at morning, Keep me at noon.

I am tired, Astray and stumbling, Shield me from sin.

(Celtic Tradition)







 $\mathcal{T}$ weave a silence on my lips, I weave a silence into my mind, I weave a silence within my heart.

I close my ears to distractions, I close my eyes to attentions, I close my heart to temptations.

Calm me, O Lord, as You stilled the storm, Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.

Let all the tumult within me cease. Enfold me, Lord, in Your peace.

(Celtic Tradition)



Almighty God; teach me, I humbly ask You, the secret of casting fear out of my mind.

With deep regret, I confess that frequently I am afraid.

Life piles up too big for me and the multiple threats that the days bring are too much for my small store of strength and courage.

I need help. Remind me of my resources in You.

May I hear over and over again deep within my soul, Your voice and Your words:

"Be not afraid."

So hearing, may I trust You and so trusting, may I find my sure strength in Your love.







O Allah, I seek Your guidance through Your knowledge and ability, through Your power, and beg of Your infinite bounty; for You have power and I have none, You know and I know not, And You are the knower of hidden things.

O Allah, if in Your knowledge, this matter is good for my faith, for my livelihood, and for the outcome of my affairs, then decide it for me and make it easy for me and bless me therein.

But if in Your knowledge this matter is bad for my faith, for my livelihood and for the outcome of my affairs, then turn it away from me, and turn me away therefrom, and decide for me the good wherever it be, and cause me to be pleased therewith.

(Muslim Tradition)

God, You know the disappointment, the discouragement, the anxiety, the loneliness, yes, even the anger I feel because the prognosis is not good.

I can only pray that You can give me and my loved ones the strength for whatever lies ahead.

Don't let us panic. Let us be open and honest with one another, and enable us to make the most and the best of the coming days. Amen.

(Jewish Tradition)

Tremember Your kindness, Your kindness from of old. Generations gone by speak of Your goodness.

From the past I hear their voices, "In our suffering God heard our cries; God lifted us up from the dust."

Unchanging God, be kind to me. I look to You, I call, I knock at Your door. Open Your heart to hear me.

Look toward me, and have mercy, for I am troubled and alone. Amen.





 $\mathcal{L}$ ord, I come with the leper's boldness repeating his prayer: "If You wish, You can make me clean."

Banished from home, family and friends, he shouldered his way through the crowd shrinking before him, afraid and repulsed by his condition.

Yet, You welcomed him, O Lord. I pray his simple prayer, and I remember, too, that prayer You spoke in Your aloneness in Gethsemane.

"Father, if You will let this cup pass from me." Help me find peace and strength in Your holy will, O God. Amen.



Most Holy Spirit, Soul of my soul, strengthen me, guide me, console me; tell me what to do.

Help me to accept all that You allow to happen to me.

Help me to do all that You expect of me. Let me know Your will. I will try to do Your will always.

(Christian Tradition)

The ungrateful man overlooks ten gifts from God; but when one is withheld, loses faith.

If God were to withdraw the other nine as well, what would he do?

We cannot force God's hand: Better that we should submit to His will.

He who delights in the will of God, happiness will be his.

Whoever God inspires to go in His way, Gains every possible blessing.

(Sikh Tradition)

May the sheltering forest feel your moccasin prints while warm, gentle winds caress you.

And may the Great Spirit cause His sunshine to light your path with beauty.

(Native American Tradition)



rust in God...

God has not promised skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through.

God has not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God has promised strength for the day, Rest for the laborer, light on the way,

Grace for the trials, help from above, Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

(Christian Tradition)

God Be in My Head

God, be in my head, And in my understanding;

God, be in my eyes And in my looking;

God, be in my mouth, And in my speaking;

God, be in my heart, And in my thinking;

God, be at my end, And at my departing.

(Indian Tradition)

I sickness I turn to You, O God, for comfort and help. Strengthen within me the wondrous power of healing that comes from You.

Guide my doctors and nurses that they may speed my recovery. Let the knowledge of Your presence comfort my dear ones, lighten their burdens, and renew their faith.

May my sickness not weaken my faith in You, nor diminish my love for other human beings. From my illness, may I gain a truer appreciation of life's gifts, a deeper awareness of life's blessings, and a fuller sympathy for all who are in pain.

(Jewish Tradition)

What use this rush, this hurry This burden of earthly duties?

God's purpose stands firm, And you, his little one, Need one thing only -Trust that He is able and willing to satisfy your needs.

Rest your burdens on Him, And you, His little one, May play in safety by Him.

This is the essence of it all – God is, God loves you, God carries your burdens.

(Hindu Tradition)



un

*C*ternal God, my loving Lord; Hear me when in the midst of pain my heart cries out to You for ease.

Give me thoughts of You and Your love. Steady me, relax me. Enable me to hold on with courage, until I find relief.

Let me never lose sight of Your unfailing love for me.

Have pity on me, O God, have pity on me, for in You I take refuge. In the shadow of Your wings, I take refuge, till harm passes by.

Lord, You know my complaints. Like Job's, they question my faith. Have You turned from a friend to an enemy? Where is Your goodness, Your justice and Your love?

I too fear the worst: that every promised relief is false. In my darkest moments my temptation is to give up hope.

Give me trust in You, O Lord, in spite of all my fears. Let me believe You are a faithful God, who offers me strength to carry on.

Help me in my time of testing, and deliver me from evil. Amen.

(Christian Tradition)

My God and God of all generations, in my great need, I pour out my heart to You.

The long days and weeks of suffering are hard to endure. In my struggle, I reach out for help that only You can give. Let me feel that You are near, and that Your care enfolds me.

Rouse in me the strength to overcome my weakness, and brighten my spirit with the assurance of Your love.

Make me grateful for the care and concern that are expended on my behalf. Help me to sustain the hopes of my dear ones, as they strive to strengthen and encourage me.

May the healing power You have placed within me give me strength to recover, so that I may proclaim with all my being:

I shall not die; but live and declare the works of God.

(Jewish Tradition)



O God, our refuge and strength, and an ever present help in times of trouble, how much I need Your strength and presence in my life right now. I feel weak, depressed, anxious, even frightened. I need help to face these hours and days.

So I claim Your promises that I can bear whatever comes, that Your strength will be sufficient, and that my despair will give way to Your peace that passes all understanding. Amen

(Jewish Tradition)

Dear God, it's very hard for me even to pray, I feel so abandoned, alone and discouraged. I see myself neglected and without support, and it hurts so much.

It's like being a child again, lost in the forest unseen, hostile forces and not knowing which way to turn.

Lord, show me the path to the light of Your love. Lead me to the still water of Your comfort. Make me aware of Your healing presence.

Give me faith again and that conviction of faith which will enable me to trust in You and in those who minister to me here.

With You, all things are possible, my hope is in You. Amen.



## $\mathcal{O}$ Great Spirit

Whose voice I hear in the winds; and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak and I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things You have made and my ears sharp to hear Your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand the things You have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy – myself.

Make me always ready to come to You with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, My spirit may come to You without shame.

(Native American Tradition)

tre

17





God, You know my feelings. You know that I want to feel better; I want to have my health back.

But the hours of testing, the days of diagnosing, and the question marks concerning my future seem nearly more than I can take.

Grant me, O God, the strength to face each hour of this and every day.

In fact, when it seems that I cannot even bear this hour, fill me with sufficient strength to face the next five minutes.

## Ch ma ho!

Wonderful Amitabha, Buddha of Boundless Light, on Your right is Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Compassion and on Your left is Mahasthamaprapta, the Bodhisattva of Power.

You are surrounded by a limitless assembly of Bodhisattvas.

At the moment of my death without delay, appear to me and conduct me to Sukhavati, Your pure Land of Bliss.

May the lotus into which I am born open immediately on my arrival, so that I may see the face of Amitabha, receive teaching and quickly reach enlightenment in order to benefit limitless beings.

(Buddhist Tradition)







Almighty God, You know my inmost being... the secrets of my body and soul. Fill my heart with trust, even as I fear, and bless the surgeons and the nurses and all who work to help me with gifts of healing and care. Be near, gently sustaining me, and supporting them in their skills. Amen.

20

Almighty God, my Heavenly Father, As You have always sent angels to do Your healing work, so You have sent men and women as instruments of Your healing now.

Bless the surgeons and all who will attend to me, that their knowledge and skill might bring the healing You desire. Grant to me the confidence to know that all of my days are in Your loving care. Through Christ, my Lord. Amen.

(Christian Tradition)

 $\mathcal{O}$  Eternal One, whose love is boundless – Thou hast made me and knowest my frame.

In this hour, I humbly ask Thy blessing. Sustain me with Thy power.

Watch over me with Thy love. Grant unto me healing in accordance with Thy will.

Look with favor upon my doctors and nurses. May Thy blessing inspire them with wisdom of mind and skill of hand as they labor to bring unto me healing of body and spirit.

Be thou with my dear ones. Sustain and strengthen them in their faith and trust in Thee.

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, My Rock and Redeemer.

(Jewish Tradition)





## Blessed Savior,

I thank You that this operation is safely past and now I rest in Your abiding presence, relaxing every tension, releasing every care and anxiety, receiving more of Your healing life into every part of my being. In moments of pain I turn to You for strength, in times of loneliness I feel Your loving nearness; grant then that Your life and love and joy may flow through me for the healing of others in Your name.

After



Our God and God of our ancestors,
Your healing power has saved me.
You have sustained me in my weakness,
supported me in my suffering,
and set me on the road to recovery.
By Your grace, I have found strength

to endure the hours of distress and pain. Lord, now give me patience and peace of mind.

Help me, after I have recovered, to express gratitude for all Your mercies by greater devotion to Your service.

(Jewish Tradition)

Surge Er



hankşqiving...

O Lord, how unfailing are Your blessings. Your mercies are new to me every day! I give You thanks for renewing my health; for the relief of my pain and worry. Continue Your healing within me and grant that I, growing in strength and faith, may return in Your time to the work

You have given me to do for You. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Christian Tradition)

 $\mathcal{O}$  give thanks to God, who is good; For God's love is everlasting.

In distress I called upon the Eternal; God answered me by setting me free.

With Adonai at my side, I am not afraid; What can mere mortals do to me?

The Eternal is my strength and my shield; God has become my help.

I shall not die but live and tell the deeds of the Eternal.

This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.





Thank You, Gracious God, for all the gifts You've given me. Thank you, healing Lord, for rebuilding and restoring my body to health.

Thank You, healing Lord, for the marvels of medicine, the nurses and doctors who helped restore me to health.

Thank You, healing Lord, for all I received in my illness. For water that cooled me, for food that sustained me, for medicine and those who treated me, for those who prayed and were concerned.

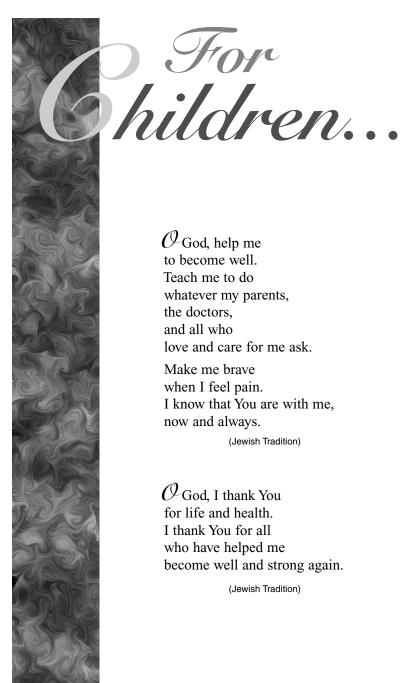
Thank You, healing Lord, for reuniting me to the flow of daily life and my family and neighbors.

Thank You, healing Lord, for the time You have allotted me, for the life You have offered me and for the blessing of each new day.

Thank You, healing Lord, for being with me for listening to me, for taking me seriously.

Thank You, Lord, thank you very much.





My heaven has no people sitting on clouds playing harps; No Peter handing out wings at the gate; Not a big church where people stand around in robes and halos singing all the time.

My heaven is a busy place Its people laugh alot and skip stones and fly kites.

My heaven is a place of symphonies and kazoos, Sixteen inch softballs And a tug at the end of your fishing line, Where children play with each other.

Where couples dance in the grand ballroom, A land of milk and honey and ham on rye, A time of Sunday mornings, But Saturday nights too.

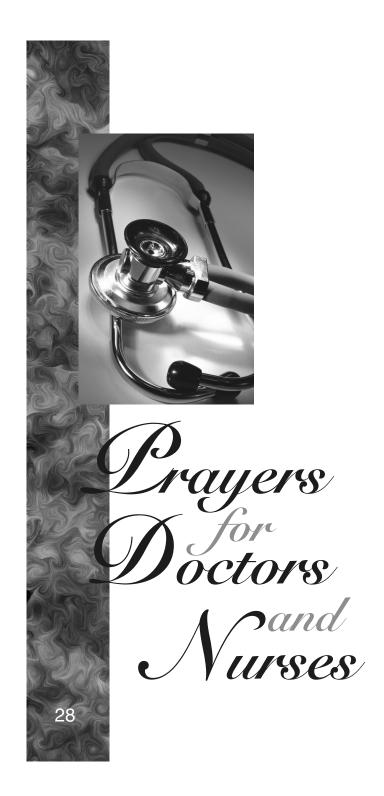
It's no dream, no ghost, No drifting spirit world.

My heaven is real.

(Christian Tradition)



Angel of God, My Guardian dear, To Whom God's love Commits me here, Ever this day Be at my side To light, to guard To rule, to guide. Amen. (Christian Tradition)



Lord, I thank You for those who try to make others well and care for those in suffering and pain.

Give them wisdom in curing and gentle patience in caring.

For all sly they have done, grant them the reward You promised those attending the sick: Come, blessed of my Father, here is the Kingdom made ready for you. Amen.

(Christian Tradition)

I thank you, God for the care and concern for the many about me who have dedicated themselves to health and healing.

It is they who have had to respond to my calls for help; they who will be with me throughout the difficult times ahead.

Grant wisdom, patience and understanding to them.

Bless the work of their hands and their hearts that their labors may not be in vain.

As Your helpers, may they find the way to restore me and others to a life renewed.

May I and they feel the comfort of Your presence.

(Jewish Tradition)



Dontrition ...

*O* My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee.

And I detest all my sins, because of Thy just punishments; but most of all, because they offend, Thee, My God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve with the help of Thy Grace To sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

(Traditional Christian Form)



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My God,

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior suffered and died for us,

in His name, my God, have mercy.

(New Christian Form)



Evening & Night Prayers...

Almighty Father, Thank You for the medicine which brings sleep.

May I and my fellow patients have rest of body.

As You ever deal kindly with Your servants, fill the hospital with the sense of Your vivid presence that the wondrous fragrance of Your love may never leave us.

We ask this blessing through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Christian Tradition)

In whatever state of mind you are, Sing God's praises, and set forth the greatness of the Creator.

Whatever your feelings, reflect upon the Creator for everything.

I offer myself in hymn of praise that brings peace everlasting.

Day after day, he extends his care to everything he created;

He will continue to do so forever, he who provides all.

No one can measure the gifts of God; Who can appreciate the giver of them all?

32

(Sikh Tradition)

*O* Heavenly Father, You have given us the gift of sleep as a means of rest and refreshment.

Grant that at the end of this day I may so place myself into Your gentle arms that this night may be free of care and anxiety.

Grant that I may awake tomorrow refreshed and ready to receive the care You will give me. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Christian Tradition)

O God, as this day closes, humbly I thank Thee for all that it has brought me; for its joys and also for its trials.

Grant that my deeds may show that I am worthy of Thy favor.

Strengthen me, O God, that I may love Thee with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my might.

Pardon, O Father, my shortcomings and help me to overcome them.

Grant me the strength to forgive all who may have wronged me, and give me the courage to seek pardon of all whom I have offended. O God, Who neither sleepest nor slumberest, heal me and I shall be healed.

> Spread Thy tabernacle of peace over my home and all who are dear to me, and over all Thy children.



The Lord is my shepherd; I want for nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me beside safe waters, and refreshes my soul.

He takes me along the right path for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff give me courage.

You prepare a table before me in the sight of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

The Great Father above a Shepherd Chief is, I am His and with Him I want not.

He throws out to me a rope, and the name of the rope is love, and He draws me, He draws me into a good road. His name is wonderful.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be longer, it may be a long, long time, He will draw me into a place between mountains. It is dark here, but I'll draw back not. I'll be afraid not, for it is in there between those mountains that the Shepherd Chief wills me, and the hunger I have felt in my heart all through this life will be satisfied.

Sometimes He makes the rope into a whip, but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean on. He spreads a table before me with all kinds of food. He puts His hand upon my head, and all the "tired" is gone. My cup He fills till it runs over.

What I tell you is true. I lie not. These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life, and afterwards I will go to live in the "Big Teepee" and sit down with the Shepherd Chief forever.

(Psalm 23, Native American Tradition)







The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? One thing I ask of the Lord; this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to admire His temple. For He will hide me in His dwelling on the day of evil; He will conceal me in the recesses of His tent and place me high upon a rock. Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; have mercy on me and answer me. My heart says of You, "Seek His face!" Your face, O Lord, I seek. You are my help, do not cast me off; Do not abandon me, God our Savior. Though my father and mother may forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

Psalm 27: 1, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

Hear, O Lord and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Guard my life, for I am devoted to You. You are my God; save Your servant who trusts in You.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to You all day long.

Bring joy to Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to You.

Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.

In the day of my trouble I will call to You, for You will answer me.

Psalm 86: 1-7

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day.

For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Psalm 91: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12





Slift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber;

Indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life;

The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.



Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Let the morning bring the word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You.

Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.

Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, for I hide myself in You.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God;

May Your Good Spirit lead me on level ground.

For Your Name's Sake, O Lord, preserve my life; in Your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.

In Your Unfailing Love, silence my enemies; destroy all my foes, for I am Your servant.

Psalm : 143 7-12



The Lord's Drayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Sevotional rayers....

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

(For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory now and forever).



The Hail Mary ...

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.

Blessed art Thou among women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Drayer to St. **Deregrine** 



O God, who gave to St. Peregrine an Angel for his companion, the Mother of God for his teacher, and Jesus for the Physician of his malady, grant we beseech You, that through his merits we may on earth intensely love our holy Angel, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and our Savior; and in him bless them forever.

Grant that we may receive the favor which we now petition.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

