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PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF PITY

—*Traditional English Prayer from
before the Protestant Revolt*



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I beseech thee O Holy Lady
Mary, Mother of God
most full of pity,
the daughter of the highest
king,
mother most glorious,
mother of orphans,
the consolation of the desolate,
the way of them that go astray,
the safety of all that trust
in thee,
a virgin before childbearing,
a virgin in childbearing,
and a virgin after childbearing:
the fountain of mercy,
the fountain of health
and grace,
the fountain of consolation
and pardon,
the fountain of piety
and gladness,
the fountain of life
and forgiveness.
By that holy unspeakable
gladness, by which thy spirit
did rejoice that hour,
wherein the Son of God
was unto thee
by the Angel Gabriel

declared and conceived.
And by that holy unspeakable
humility, in which thou
didst answer the
Archangel Gabriel:
Behold the handmaid of
our Lord, be it unto me
according unto thy word:
and by that divine mystery,
which the Holy Ghost as
then did work in thee:
and by the unspeakable grace,
pity, mercy, love, and
humility by the which thy
Son our Lord Jesus Christ
came down to take
human flesh in thy
most venerable womb:
and by the most glorious joys,
which thou hadst of thy Son
our Lord Jesus Christ:
and by that holy and most great
compassion, and most bitter
grief of thy heart,
which thou hadst when
as thou didst behold thy Son
our Lord Jesus Christ,
made naked before the cross,
and lifted up upon the same,

hanging, crucified,
wounded, thirsting,
and the most bitter drink
of gall and vinegar put
unto His mouth.

Thou heardst Him cry Eli,
and didst see Him die.
And by those five wounds of
the same thy son
and by the sore shrinking
together of thy inward parts,
through the extreme grief
of His wounds,
and by the sorrow which thou
hadst when thou didst
behold Him wounded.
And by the fountains
of His blood:
and by all His Passion, and
sorrow of thy heart,
and by the fountains
of thy tears,
that thou wouldst come with all
the Saints and elect of God
and hasten unto my help,
and my counsel in all my
prayers, and petitions, in
all my distresses and
necessities.

As also in all those things,
wherein I am to do anything,
speak, or think,
all the days and nights,
hours, and moments
of my life.

And obtain for me thy servant
of thy beloved Son
Our Lord Jesus Christ
the accomplishment
of all virtues,
with all mercy, and consolation,
all counsel and aid,
all benediction and
sanctification,
all salvation, peace and
prosperity,
all joy and gladness:
also abundance of all spiritual
good things,
and sufficiency of corporal,
and grace of the Holy Ghost,
which may well dispose me in
all things,
and may guard my soul,
govern and protect my body,
stir up my mind,
order my manners,
approve my acts,

suggest holy cogitations,
pardon my evils past,
amend things present,
and moderate things to come:
bestow on me an honest, and
chaste life,
grant me faith, hope, and
charity:
make me firmly to believe
the articles of the faith,
and to observe the precepts
of the law:
rule and protect the senses
of my body,
and evermore deliver me
from mortal sins,
and defend me to my life's end:
that He may graciously and
meekly hear, and receive this
prayer,
and give me life
everlasting.
Hear and make
intercession
for me most
sweet virgin
Mary Mother
of God, and
Mercy. Amen.

