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OLD ENGLISH PRAYERS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN



Prayer I

O Mary, holy and immaculate Virgin Mother of God! Thou art the most merciful and most loving mother of my Lord: Thou art most glorious and exalted above the stars of heaven, for thou alone, without any equal, hast found favour with Christ, and, coming to the aid of a fallen world, hast brought to it salvation.

Unspotted and most worthy Virgin of Virgins; most powerful of all creatures; Lady exalted above all women; to you nothing is difficult to obtain from God: come to my aid, who am a

wretched sinner, full of sins and a man of many iniquities.

O thou, who didst bring forth the Lamb that taketh away the sins of the world, come, I beseech thee, to mine aid, unworthy and sinful though I am.

I acknowledge my iniquity, I know my offences, I confess my sins, I proclaim my unworthiness, I see my soul stained with all pollution.

But, O Virgin Mary, who art incomparable in thy love, do thou by thy holy prayers soften and turn aside the just wrath of the Lord my God.

Prayer II

O holy Mother of Christ,
extend thy help to those
who in sorrow fly to thee
for aid;

assist and cherish all who
trust in thee;

pray for thy clients in this
world;

plead in behalf of the
clergy,

intercede for monks,
entreat for women,

O Mary, Mother of God.

Prayer III

O holy and unspotted
Virgin Mary, the solace and
life of the faithful; from
thee the Author of our
salvation willed to take
flesh; with deep drawn
sighs I beg thy help and

plead for thy devoted
intervention with thy own
Son in my behalf.

I am but a wretched and
ungrateful sinner, but
through thee, whatsoever is
amiss in my life, or hurtful
to my soul's health, may He
blot out and correct;
whatever is useful and
profitable, may He plant
and strengthen.

Let not the cunning
enemy of the human race
rejoice at my ruin, but,
driven away by thy help, let
him bewail his lot. May thy
perpetual intercession so
obtain for me the grace of
Christ, that I may keep my
soul and my body
unspotted, humble and
gentle, and strengthened by

the noble gifts of faith,
hope, and charity; I may so
obey all Christ's
commands, that when my
last day shall come, I may
deserve to be admitted into
the number of thy clients
among the blessed spirits in
heaven, if thou intercede
for me, who art the sweet
Queen of heaven and earth,
and grace comes from thy
Son, who, with the
coeternal Father and Holy
Spirit, lives and reigns one
God Almighty for endless
ages. Amen.

—*A Little Book of Prayers from Old
English Sources*, Edited by Dom F.
Aidan Pasquet, Catholic Truth
Society, London: 1900, pp. 47-49,
archive.org.