



Morning Prayers
for
The Royal Danish Naval College

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By **Dr. theol. B. Münter**
(1794-1867)

Sunday Morning

This is the day of rest, O God ! The customary calling claimeth me not. Thy wish it is that I should enjoy rest, and with joy do I hearken unto and obey Thy fatherly commandment. Firstly will I seek rest for my soul with Him—He, who Himself doth invite me to find it in Him. Unto Thy house will I pass over and with Thy congregation will I join together ; furthermore in community with it sing praises unto Thy Holy Name, and in quiet prayer pour out my heart unto Thee and hearken unto Thy blessed Word, the which also wast given unto me for wisdom and peace in life, for comfort and hope in death. Then will I too seek rest for these my limbs in the bosom of nature, in the circle of my nearest, in the company of relations and of friends pass hours ripe both in pleasure and enjoyment, which are to be wrought beautiful through the means of their love. Accept Thou our thanks for this day ! Also this hast Thou given unto me ! Teach me therefore to employ it and enjoy it in accordance with Thy will !

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation ; But deliver us from evil : For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

Monday Morning

Together with Thee, O God ! will I embark upon this day ! for 'tis Thou hast granted it unto me. Of all that which it demandeth of me am I aware. It demandeth that I with true diligence shall devour the fruits of that instruction, the which by Thy grace is about to be offered me that I may progress in knowledge, such as is required of me in this my calling ; it demandeth that I without ceasing shall have regard for my heart, that it be not defiled ; for my path, that it be not distracted ; and for my conscience, that it be not unduly laden with inner accusations and grudges. O ! teach me always so to see before my eyes these, the holy demands of this day ! Watch over me, that I do not regard but one of these as slight. For knowledge bereft of virtue is without value. But virtue bereft of knowledge is too feeble for that man, who will serve under the ensign of Denmark. Knower of hearts ! Thou seest the virtue of my intentions : Thou thyself—it is—who hast called it to life within my breast. O, Thou who workest in us both to will and to perfect, help Thou me this day to perfect such as be my tasks, and when I have completed them in the opulence of Thy aid and to Thy pleasure and satisfaction, then will I anew in the wealth of my gratitude give praise unto Thy Name, thus as I now praise it at the beginning of this day.

Our Father . . .

Tuesday Morning

Almighty God ! Humbly I stand before Thy countenance and faithful of soul I avow that there are none like unto Thee : Thou art King of kings and Lord of lords ! In Thy presence shall I find my right homeland, my right resting-place, where I, as he, who was but a stranger and a foreigner, shall be continually housed, after that I have spent my earthly days according unto Thy will. But here have I also already a king, whom I honour and love, a fatherland which is precious and dear unto me. To them have I dedicated my life on earth and to them shall it belong. Should they desire it, should their welfare demand that I endanger my life, then straightway shall I go wheresoever duty calleth me : were I then to hesitate, I should not be worthy of that calling, which is mine by choice, and in which I am incorporated by Thy providential guidance. O, God ! bless the King, bless Denmark ! Give Thou me earnestness thus to employ the years of my youth, that as man I may be capable of serving them both, like unto the manifold honourable men, who have preceded me in this my station setting an example most worthy of being followed !

Our Father . . .

Wednesday Morning

O Lord ! I acknowledge the magnitude of that blessing by the which was I brought so early to the Lord Jesus Christ, and that at baptism I was dedicated unto His care. Wherefore was my soul endowed already in the days of my youth with a deeper earnestness and a hope most joyful. Never, this swear I again at this hour, never wilt it fall unto me to forget my Christian name and the holy duties toward purity of mind and deed, which this name demandeth of me. Am I ashore, then shall an inner voice hasten to remind me thereof : traversing the ocean, then shall that flag, in which I behold the sign of the cross on which my Saviour wast himself sacrificed, evoke in my heart the memory of Him and such as He demandeth of me. May that picture of Him, I beg this of Thee this morning, forever appear before mine eyes ; and with Thy aid, O God, shalt it give strength unto me like Him, to maintain myself in purity, trust and courage even in danger ; loving and forbearing towards mine enemies, and dauntless unto the hour of death.

Our Father . . .

Thursday Morning

Obedience demandest Thou, O God, not in the spirit of thralldom, not through fear of punishment, as the master is obeyed by the slave, but through love and veneration, as the good father is obeyed by the good son. Upon me hath this been impressed, and never shall I forget it. But also will I remember that there are those who demand obedience and have due right to demand such. Unto them gavest Thou that privilege, assigning them a position in life, in which they as superiors should have command over others. Perhaps I also can in the passage of years attain unto such authority. But if I can expect to attain it, by obedience need I first begin. In my calling this is necessary before all. The obedience of the younger, the subordinate, is its strength and its force ; it hath been so alway, and alway will it be so in the future. Kill then all stubbornness and wilfulness within my heart, and help me that I may with a willing spirit, not compelled like the slave, but from love as the son, obey those, whom I need obey, those whom Thou hast set over me to show unto me the way toward honour and toward glory !

Friday Morning

The Danish sailor hath always feared Thee, O God ! Help the younger generation to be like unto the elder in this respect ! Open Thou my heart for resuscitations to fear Thee, which Thou so richly givest me in this most wondrous calling, for the which Thou deignest to use me. Let it be my renewed resolution to fear Thee, when I ponder at sea in the dark night lift up mine eyes unto the sparkling host of stars, and I am reminded by these, Thy voiceless witnesses, of Thy greatness and might, of the better regions hereafter, where there needeth be a place also for me. To fear Thee, may this be my renewed resolution, when the ship on the which I do work, one moment is lifted unto the very heavens by the most mighty waves, and the next seemeth to sink into the abyss which openeth beneath me. To fear Thee, may this be my renewed resolution, when that storm, which Thou hast sent forth, rageth with power indomitable, and I and those planks that must bear me be abandoned to its violence. Verily, plant Thou early in my heart a fear of Thee and let it swell with the years. Of that the sailor should never be ashamed ; perpetually he needeth it ; his best strength is it, and through it alone can he remain glad and dauntless in his calling.

Saturday Morning

He, who wisheth to be mine, shall deny himself ; thus said the Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord God ! teach me to consider highly that important word, and to engrave it upon my heart with letters never to be erased. No need have I to be reminded, not only as a Christian, but also as one who hath received a call which is laden with difficulty and danger. If I desired days of calm and of peace as the greatest good, then would I seek life's comfort first of all, I would care for my body and rebel in the inclinations and delights of the senses ; thus would I in all ways render myself unsuited for and unworthy of the calling, to the which I have hearkened. Indeed, no man can serve two masters—and such matters could not be united with the life of a seaman. Teach me therefore, O God, even from the days of my childhood to shrink from all effeminacy, give me the power to endure want and deprivation, joyfully and with satisfaction accepting life as it is offered and presented unto me ; and with manly strength to subdue and suppress my own lusts, wheresoever this be of necessity ; then am I lord of my mind and become therewith an early conqueror, pleasing unto Thee and dear in the eyes of men.

Our Father . . .