

The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday February 5, 2006

D. L. Moody was born on this day in 1837. This foremost 19th-century American evangelist used to say: "If we could really make people believe that God loves them, how we should find them crowding into the kingdom of heaven! The trouble is, they think God hates them; and so they are all the time running away from Him." This morning, we'll pray prayers he prayed to the God who hears and answers in His Eternal Present – no matter when the prayers ascend from our world. Let us pray.

"Oh, Thou most gracious Savior, we thank Thee that Thou art not far off, but that Thou art nigh; and, Lord, we know that Thou art here this morning. We rejoice in Thy presence. For all of the mercies that have gone out from these walls and blessed so many homes, we thank Thee. We thank Thee for Thy precious blessings, for the faith Thou hast imbedded in our hearts; for the work we have beheld within these walls; for the precious work that is being done in the homes of these, Thy people.

"Our Savior, may we feed on Thy Spirit as the bread of life. May we have the joy of turning from sin and being enriched by Thy Holy Spirit.

"We pray Thee that Thou wilt help us to understand the passages we have heard. Give us hearts to listen to the things that shall be spoken here. Increase our faith; take away our miserable unbelief. May we see eye to eye; may every heart beat true to Christ. May we all be of one mind and of one spirit. May we learn the power of salvation and come to Thee in the spirit of the Master and believe. Help us to cast all our burdens upon Thee.

"Our Heavenly Father: May the Spirit that came upon Gideon and Joshua and Elijah, and that came on the day of Pentecost, come upon us here this morning. O Spirit of the Living God, fall upon us here today, and may our hearts be all on fire for the Son of God. And may we be willing to lay aside our dignity and position and standing, and go forth into the vineyard and work for Thee. O Spirit of the Living God, come upon us today. Lord Jesus, breathe upon us one breath from that upper world and grant that people here may lift their hearts to Thee.

"Our Heavenly Father, may we look for a blessing ere we go hence, for precious blessings before we go from this place. And we shall give You all the glory."

We pray in Jesus' name, as we add the prayer he taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.