

# Seven Short Prayers

Jane Austen (1775–1817) and Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709–1784)

Judith Bingham

## 1. A Prayer for the New Year, 1779 (Samuel Johnson)

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

*f* Al - migh - ty God, *mf* mer-ci-ful Fa- ther, div. who hast

*f* Al - migh - ty God, *mf* mer-ci-ful, mer-ci-ful fa- ther, who hast

5

S.

A.

T.

B.

non div. div. non div. *pp* grant, *mf*

gran- ted to me the be - gi - nning of a - no - ther year, grant grant that I may em-

gran- ted to me a - no - - ther year, *mf* grant that I

## Seven Short Prayers

### 1. A Prayer for a New Year (Samuel Johnson)

Almighty God, merciful Father, who hast granted to me the beginning of another year, grant that I may employ Thy gifts to Thy glory, and my own salvation. For the sake of Jesus Christ, Amen.

### 2. A New Year's Resolution (Jane Austen)

Incline us Oh God! To think humbly of ourselves, to consider our fellow creatures with kindness, and to judge all they say and do with charity. Give us a thankful sense of the blessings in which we live, of the many comforts of our lot; that we may not lose them by discontent or indifference. Amen.

### 3. A Prayer for Lent (Samuel Johnson)

Forgive me my sins, O Lord, and enable me to forsake them. Ease, if it shall please Thee, the anxieties of my mind, and relieve the infirmities of my body. Let me not be disturbed by unnecessary terrors, and let not the weakness of age make me unable to amend my life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### 4. A Prayer for Easter (Samuel Johnson)

Almighty and most merciful Father, who art the Lord of life and death, who givest and who takest away, teach me to adore Thy providence, whatever Thou shalt allot me; make me to remember, with due thankfulness, the comforts I have received, and prepare me, by Thy Grace, to die with hope and to pass by death to eternal happiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### 5. A Prayer of Gratitude (Jane Austen)

We thank thee with all our hearts for every gracious dispensation, for all the blessings that have attended our lives, for every hour of safety, health and peace, of domestic comfort and innocent enjoyment. We have been blessed far beyond any thing that we have deserved. Amen.

### 6. A Prayer for Healing (Samuel Johnson)

Almighty and most merciful Father, look down with pity upon my troubles and maladies. Heal my body, calm my inquietude, and relieve my terrors; that I may run the race set before me with patience, peace and constancy. Pardon and bless me, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### 7. A Prayer before Sleep (Jane Austen)

Keep us O Heavenly Father from evil this night, and bring us in safety to the beginning of another day. Pardon O God the offences of the past day; we remember with shame and contrition, many evil thoughts and neglected duties. May the comforts of every day be thankfully felt by us, may they prompt a benevolent spirit toward every fellow-creature. Amen.

Duration: 14½ minutes

Can be performed as one long piece, or as separate prayers.

*Commissioned by Jan H Börjesson for Schola Calmariensis*