

A PRAYER FOR THE LOST DDH PRAYERS

O God, how many prayers have been uttered in the Chapel of the Holy Grail, before dinners of the House community, or in the solitude of private rooms? How many of these have been lost, never to be found and read again for the good of any human being?

I must confess, O God, that I have contributed to this great mountain of lost prayers. Due to my multiple moves, my many drawers, and my bounteous and disorganized files, this poor sinner cannot find a single one of the many prayers I have given at that place. I am comforted by the thought that others will do better.

I also am soothed by the peculiar theology of your remembrance that I often heard in the halls of the Disciples Divinity House and the Divinity School. This was the belief that whereas we humans forget, lose valuable ideas, and waste important goods, in your divine love, power, and omnipotence you forget and squander nothing of genuine value. Nor do you lose a single valuable offering that comes up to you on high from those of us below. We have been told by our teachers that you never fail to hear us, that you never fail to attend to us, that you never forget, that you always cherish, that you always retain, and that you carefully sift through all our prayerful thoughts and actions, saving the best forever. We also are told that not only do you save our humble thoughts and deeds for your own enjoyment but that you convey the best of our offerings back to humankind for its enrichment.

This, O God, is a comforting thought for those of us who forget, who neglect the important things of life, who lose our way in trivia, and fail to remember and carry forward all the goods that come from you and from our human sisters and brothers. We know and appreciate that you have made us both finite and free. We also know and confess our sin and inadequacies.

But we know as well of your grace and forgiveness—a grace and forgiveness that comes in many ways. Help us to appreciate the grace that comes from the reality that while we forget, you do not; while we waste and lose the goods of life, you cherish, preserve, and share all good with us; while we ignore and neglect, you ignore and neglect nothing, thereby saving us amidst all of our weakness, ignorance, and willful disregard.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who remembers our prayers, hopes, and failures so well that He perpetually includes our brokenness into his redemptive life.
Amen.

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Winged Words: Prayers For Common Worship & Common Life
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