

# THE HEDGEHOG REVIEW



## Bad Prayers (creeping works-righteousness)

**LBW p. 21:** Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you . . . .

(Second Sunday of Easter)

In other words: "Get going! We need to show the power of the resurrection in what we do."

**LBW, p. 27:** O God, we thank you for your Son who shows the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands . . . .

(Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost)

In other words: "We can and should be obedient."

**LBW, p. 15:** Lord God, you showed your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son. As he brought gladness and healing to his people, grant us these same gifts and lead us also to perfect faith in him, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Second Sunday after Epiphany)

In other words: "He did good works. We must do good works. Finally it's all about doing good works."

**What's wrong with these prayers?** On the one hand, all prayer is defective so there are no "perfect" prayers. On the other hand, we should not therefore willfully use prayers which contain **a creeping works-righteousness -- as if we can and have to do works which are needed for our salvation.**

Some ancient prayers are defective, just as some modern prayers are. The criterion for evaluating prayers – and hymns – is whether they lift high the cross. For more on prayer, see [www.crossalone.us](http://www.crossalone.us), then go to Resources/Pamphlets/"Why pray?"

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## Good Prayers

Almighty Father, your Word is power. By your Word you make life out of death; you create everything out of nothing. Most astonishing of all, you justify us, the ungodly. We praise you for what you do. We thank you for your Word which gives us life. In the brokenness of our lives keep us in your Word. Keep us in you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

O Lord, we are blind; you give us sight. We are lost; you carry us home. We cannot pay our debt; you redeem us. You are the Lamb of God who takes away our sin. You are the Shepherd and Guardian who leads us in paths of righteousness. We praise and thank you for your goodness and mercy. May we dwell in your house forever, Amen.

Lord Jesus, while we were yet sinners, you died for us. You take our sin on yourself, and in exchange you cover us with your perfect righteousness. By your cross we are saved from the wrath of God. By your death we are saved for life everlasting. We rejoice in your victory and your promises – world without end, Amen.

Almighty Father and Lord, send your Spirit throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel that all may receive the truth and grace which comes through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Lord, out of chaos you bring order. Into darkness you bring light. Through your Son you bring life out of death. As a new season begins, we lift our hearts in praise of your glory. We stand in awe at the beauty of your holiness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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These prayers and others are found at [www.crossalone.us](http://www.crossalone.us), under Resources/Worship/Prayers.