

MUSINGS FROM THE DEEP SOUTH
MASONIC PRAYERS

TEACH us ,Oh Lord, Architect of the Universe

To serve You, as You deserve;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labor and not to toast for any reward;
Except that of knowing we will do Your will,
And now we pray that Thee, Bless this food to
The nourishment of our bodies
And us to Thy service. – AMEN

Most holy and glorious Lord God –
Architect of the Universe,

We approach Thee with reverence, and implore
Thy Blessing on this Brother, appointed to
Preside over this lodge, and now prostrate before
Thee, fill his heart with Thy glory; Make him
Steadfast in Thy service; Grant him firmness
Of mind; animate his heart and strengthen
His endeavors; May he teach Thy judgments'
And Thy laws; And be Thy true and faithful
Servant. Bless him Oh Lord, and bless the work
Of his hands. Accept us in mercy.
Hear Thou our prayer, and grant
Our earnest supplications. – AMEN

Great Architect of the Universe,

Who alone gave us the breath of life,
And alone can keep alive in us the
Holy desires Thou dost impart; we beseech Thee,
For Thy compassion's sake, to sanctify all our
Thoughts and endeavors'; that we may never begin
An action without pure intention nor continue it
Without Thy Blessing. And grant that, having the
Eyes of the mind opened to behold things invisible
And unseen, we may in heart be inspired by
Thy wisdom, and in woe be upheld by Thy strength,
And in the end be accepted as Thy faithful servants.

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Now we pray Thee Bless this food to our
Nourishment and us to Thy service. - AMEN

[Almighty and most merciful God, Great Architect of the Universe](#) - in whom we live, and move, and have our being, and before whom all men must appear to render an account for the deeds done in the body, we do most earnestly beseech Thee, as we now mourn our fallen brother, to impress deeply, upon our minds the solemnities of this day. Thou hast seen fit to sever another link of the sacred chain that binds our Brotherhood, accept we beseech Thee our Brother into Thy Devine care and grant him peace and his family comfort. May we ever remember that 'in the midst of life we are in death,' and so live and act our several parts as we will desire to have done when the hour of our departure is at hand.

Gracious Father, vouchsafe us, we pray Thee, Thy Divine assistance, to redeem our misspent time; and in the discharge of the duties Thou hast assigned us, in the erection of our moral edifice, may we have wisdom from on high to direct us; strength commensurate with our task to support us; and the beauty of holiness to adorn and render our performances acceptable to Thy sight. And, at last, when our work on earth is done, when the mallet of Death shall call us from our labors, as it has done with our departed Brother, may we obtain Thy blessing and everlasting rest, and dwell with our Brother, in that Spiritual House, not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. - Amen.

FRATERNALLY,
JAMES L. RITTER, P.M.