

Christopher Howse (Ed)  
**Prayers for This Life**  
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This may be the classical collection of prayers and prayerful poetry that you are looking for, or are missing from your own bookshelf. For reference or reflection, Howse has provided in this attractive anthology a good selection of our most loved prayers and prayerful quotations, each with a background commentary telling of its source and context. Taken more from the old rather than the new, it has to be said, he covers a wide spectrum under three basic headings: God, God with us, and This Life with God. He has confined himself to the English-speaking Christian tradition and he is an obvious lover of the *Book of Common Prayer* and the writings around that period. There are also some surprises.

This is a personal selection chosen because, Howse says, "reading prayers that the best and holiest minds have contrived" does help to satisfy those deepest longings when we cannot ourselves find sufficient expression in words.

***Damian SSF***