

Martin Luther's prayer, the night before his final appearance at the Diet of Worms.

O God, Almighty God everlasting! how dreadful is the world! behold how its mouth opens to swallow me up, and how small is my faith in Thee!

Oh! the weakness of the flesh, and the power of Satan! If I am to depend upon any strength of this world, all is over. The knell is struck. Sentence is gone forth. O God! O God! O thou, my God! help me against the wisdom of this world. Do this, I beseech thee; thou shouldst do this by thy own mighty power.

The work is not mine, but Thine. I have no business here. I have nothing to contend for with these great men of the world! I would gladly pass my days in happiness and peace. But the cause is Thine, my Lord; and it is righteous and everlasting! O Lord! help me! O faithful and unchangeable God! I lean not upon man. It were vain! Whatever is of man is tottering, whatever proceeds from him must fail. My God! my God! dost thou not hear? My God! art thou no longer living? Nay, thou canst not die. Thou dost but hide Thyself.

Thou hast chosen me for this work. I know it! Therefore, O God, accomplish thine own will! Forsake me not, for the sake of thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who will be my shelter and my shield, yes, my mighty fortress, through the might and strengthening of the Holy Spirit.

The work is not mine, but Yours. I have no business here. I have nothing to contend for with these great men of the world! I would gladly pass my days in happiness and peace. But the cause is Yours, my Lord; and it is righteous and everlasting! Stand by me! O faithful and unchangeable God! I lean not upon man. It would be vain!

Lord, where art thou? My God, where art thou? Come! I pray thee, I am ready. Behold me, prepared to lay down my life for thy truth, suffering like a lamb. For the cause is holy. It is thine own! I will not let thee go! no, nor yet for all eternity! And though the world should be thronged with devils – and this body, which is the work of thine hands, should be cast forth, trodden under foot, cut in pieces, consumed to ashes, my soul is thine. Yes, Your Word and Your Spirit assure me. My soul belongs to thee and will abide with thee forever! Amen! O God send help! Amen!

April 17th - 18th 1521. . The prayer was heard by some of Luther's supporters at Worms and it is through them that this prayer is known. The prayer was published by Joannes Aurifaber in 1564.