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Saint Augustine's Prayer Book



Synopsis

Saint Augustine's Prayer Book is a book of prayer and practice - with disciplines, habits, and patterns for building a Christian spiritual life. It will help you to develop strong habits of prayer, to prepare for and participate in public liturgy thoughtfully, and to nurture a mind and soul ready to work and give and pray for the spread of the kingdom. Saint Augustine's Prayer Book features "Holy Habits of Prayer," devotions to accompany Holy Eucharist, Stations of the Cross, and Stations of the Resurrection, and a wide range of litanies, collects, and prayers for all occasions. The newly revised edition includes the treasured liturgies and prayers of the original while offering some important updates in language and content. Revised and edited by well-regarded scholars David Cobb and Derek Olsen, Saint Augustine's Prayer Book is a wonderful gift as well as a handsome addition to your own prayer book collection. Comes leather-bound with two ribbons in a gift box.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This new edition of the classic Augustine prayer book is physically somewhat larger than the original, which was small enough to fit in a pant's pocket. It contains more editorial instruction about Episcopal worship, but at the price of omitting various prayers of great beauty and substance, such as those traditionally said silently by the priest during the mass. Some classic prayers have been modernized and occasionally changed, but without the tone and style of the original. For those who prefer Thomas Cranmer's musical sense of English prose, these updated versions will sound stilted and lacking in beauty. "Thee", a reverential remnant of English still preserved by Quakers, is often retained but sometimes replaced by the common 'You', as the editors yield to the authority of the

Book of Common Prayer. Why modernize classic English prose, if it is not to be replaced with even greater beauty and grace? Much has been retained, to be sure, and the authors have been reverentially careful throughout in what is clearly a labor of love. This version will still serve a good purpose for providing reverential focus to an aging, dying Episcopal Church, but in my view this modernization lacks the sublimity of the classic compendium of private prayer to stand the test of time. When each of my parents died, their copies of Saint Augustine's Prayer Book were badly worn from daily use, the covers taped together from wear and devotion. I fear that this new edition, as helpful as it may be to many, will never achieve such intense a use as it served my parents. I pray that it will.

I bought the first edition almost sixty years ago. I kept it with me always. The revision is even better. I consider myself an Anglo Catholic, and this book is perfect. It is beautifully revised and language made more contemporary. Beautifully bound, thin. It will keep me going until the day I die. This is the book for someone who wants to lead a devout life. Sections on the Eucharist, living the Christian life, sacrament of confession, holy hour, and plenty of personal devotion. So often churches give us a short shrift in spirituality, this will lead one deeper into living a full life as a Christian.

This is a very useful little prayerbook. It is not intended, as a replacement for the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, but rather as a supplement for them. However, the combination of this book, the Simple Living New Testament with Psalms, and the Forward Movement devotional have enabled me to construct a brief but complete form of the Daily Office. The Forward Movement devotional booklet could be omitted if you wanted to use lectio continua rather than the seasonal lectionary. Some of the prayers are in Rite I Elizabethan English, some are in modern Rite II English, and a few are in the gender-inclusive language of Enriching our Worship. Oddly, the morning and evening canticles are printed in the Rite I and EOW forms, but not Rite 2. Despite the inclusion of much new content, most of the resources found in previous editions of the St. Augustine's PB are still here thanks to the use of bible paper. The omissions include the prayer "angel of God my guardian dear", the people's portion of the liturgy of the Eucharist (though private prayers for before, during, and after the mass remain), all of the illustrations except the Stations of the Cross, and the devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Two flaws keep me from giving this book five stars. The first is that this book sometimes switches from Elizabethan to contemporary English within the same office. I admit that my dislike of this is a matter of taste. The second, much more serious error is that the some internal page number references are wrong. On page 50 the Memorial of the Passion is

said to be on pg. 42 when it is on 33, and the Angelus is on 31, not 40.

This is a wonderful Anglican resource for those who want a more vibrant life of the spirit. It is not meant to substitute the Book of Common Prayer but supplements it with many additional prayers, devotions and instructions that are appropriate for individuals. When I had to go to the hospital unexpectedly, the prayer for healing on p. 87 meant a good deal to me and was repeated multiple times each day. Most Anglicans and those from some other liturgical traditions are acquainted with the Stations of the Cross. But in this book I found a set of post-Easter celebrations called Stations of the Resurrection. As a monastic I offer the Daily Office but there are litanies and prayers that enrich the basic marking of time. My only problem with the book is with some of the instructions which are printed in a faint red print. My aging eyes cannot read this and I have to get a magnifying glass to help. But I can see the regular black print quite well. The book is just the right size to go in the back pocket of jeans or in a suit coat vest pocket. It is a sturdy book and can take some hard wear just fine. In fact, it should get hard wear and use! It is a treasure and it accompanies me wherever I go.

A wonderful update of a great classic of Anglo-Catholic spirituality. Bravo and well done to the new editors of this volume. I find most of the prayers and meditations in this book to be wonderful and very useful.

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