

St. Stephen's at Ridgeway

State - Sep^t 24 - '39

Was Founded Hundred Years Ago Tomorrow

BY CHARLES EDWARD THOMAS.

Saint Stephen's Episcopal church at Ridgeway, is today (Sunday, September 24) observing the 100th anniversary of the first Protestant Episcopal church service held at Ridgeway, and the founding of the first Episcopal church at Ridgeway. With the Rev. Frank J. Allen, rector of St. Stephen's church, in charge, the historic event will be celebrated this morning at 11 o'clock with appropriate services. The Rt. Rev. John J. Gravatt, bishop of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, will preach the centenary sermon and the Rt. Rev. Albert S. Thomas, bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina, will deliver the historic address. Bishop Thomas' grandfather, the late Dr. John Peyre Thomas, was one of the builders of the church, and Bishop Thomas often worshipped here as a boy while visiting and at school at Mount Hope, his ancestral home near Ridgeway. The public is invited to the centennial service.

The Protestant Episcopal church had its beginning at Ridgeway exactly 100 years ago tomorrow, September 25, when the Rev. Cranmore Wallace, missionary in charge of St. John's parish, Winnsborough, on Wednesday, September 25, 1838, following the reading of the second lesson in morning service, held in the Aimwell Presbyterian meeting house, christened Catherine Marion Davis, Harriet Amelia Davis, John Ramsay Davis and George Davis, children of Edward Gendron Palmer and Caroline Davis, and wife, and Robert Kirk, son of John Peyre Thomas, M. D., and Charlotte Henrietta Couturier, his wife, according to the church record.

Early Reports. It is of historical interest that The Journal of the Diocese in 1840 referred to the Rev. Cranmore Wallace as "late missionary to destitute parts of the diocese." The missionary's report at the 1840 convention said, "Fairfield is one of the most encouraging points for future action." The following year, 1841, The Journal told of the Rev. Josiah Obear officiating as missionary of our "Advancement society" in Fairfield district. This year on June 27, the missionary christened Peter Couturier Thomas in "Aimwell church on Cedar creek." Then in August Ann Thomas was christened according to the records "at the house used by the Episcopalians for the public worship of God, in Edward G. Palmer's neighborhood." Thus this point marks the beginning of a church building for the Episcopal denomination.

It is of interest at this point to consider the field for religious or church development in this new territory.

Among the first permanent settlers of the Carolinas were both dissenters and adherents to the Church of England. The first Episcopal church in the Carolinas was built in Charles Town in 1681 or 1682, called the English church, or Church of England.



St. Stephen's, Ridgeway

but was named St. Philip. This was on the site of the present St. Michael's church in Charleston. In 1702 the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts sent from England its first missionary to the Carolinas, the Rev. Samuel Thomas, whose descendants were active in the early history of St. Stephen's parish here and from whom the present bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina is a lineal descendant, as are numerous members of this congregation at the present time.

The Church of England flourished in the new colony of Carolina, but we find that Fairfield district, like much of the up-country, was first settled by dissenters, in this case Presbyterians, whom we first identify in 1745 in that part of the country west of Winnsboro near the present settlement of Salem. The first church in the district seems to have been the old Rock church near Lebanon, the ruins of which are now in the center of a graveyard about five miles west of Winnsboro, slightly off the main highway.

Aimwell Church.

In 1790 John Rosborough and his wife, Annie Cubit, moved to Ridgeway from the Lebanon Rock Church section, and it was from this point we know the origin of Aimwell Presbyterian church, the first house of religious worship in or around Ridgeway. The Boulware, Coleman, Craig, Davis and Kennedy families also lived in and around Ridgeway at this period. The first church (Presbyterian) building was a log house west of Ridgeway near the present Bethlehem Negro church. Some years later, Edward Gendron Palmer, probably in 1833, gave land to the Presbyterian group. Aimwell church was then built on the site of the present cemetery, the first church at Aimwell was burned and a second one built in 1859, where it remained with a sessions house and manse, the latter still standing and known as the Hollis house until the latter part of the century, about 1880, when it was moved to its present site in town. Aimwell served as a house of worship for everyone in the community until Edward Gendron Palmer fitted

up a house known as the Cedar Creek mission for his own group of Episcopalians in July or August, 1841. This apparently stood on the present homestead of Robert Charlton Thomas on Palmer street. The mission took its name, not from Cedar creek west of Ridgeway, but from Cedar fork, which flows just north and east of Ridgeway into Dutchman's creek. This is referred to in church records as "The chapel of St. John's church at Cedar creek," taking its name from the only other Episcopal church in Fairfield district, St. John's at Winnsboro, which was established in 1839 and whose rectors served the Ridgeway church for many years.

During the succeeding several years Mr. Obear baptized additional members in the Episcopal church of Cedar Creek, in local homes and some going to St. John's, Winnsboro. In 1850 the Rev. John J. Roberts succeeded Mr. Obear as missionary. In May, 1853, at the convention in Charleston, Mr. Roberts reported, "Our chapel at Ridgeway will soon be completed." On August 4, 1854, with the Rt. Rev. Thomas Frederick Davis, D. D., bishop of South Carolina, and the rector, the Rev. Roberts Johnson, officiating with the Revs. Shand, Arthur, Cornish and Wigfall assisting, St. Stephen's church at Ridgeway was consecrated, and today this church which has served the Episcopalians of the community for 85 years is the oldest church building in Ridgeway and probably one of the oldest in continuous use in the county.

Church Land.

The land on which the church is built was a plot of ten acres, donated for this purpose by Mrs. Catherine Ross, wife of Dr. James Davis, who after the death of Doctor Davis moved from Columbia to Ridgeway to be near her daughter, Mrs. Edward Gendron Palmer. The plan of the church was the work of the Rev. John D. McCollough, an ecclesiastical architect of distinction, who designed numerous other churches in the state, and who later served as rector of St. Stephen's, and whose granddaughter, Mrs. Harriet Pagan (N. W.) Palmer, has long been a member of this congregation. The plan is a per-

fect Gothic style with the distinctive arched windows, braced-beam ceiling, wood-pegged throughout, interior entirely of wood and hand-made pews, and a lovely rose window to the west. The brick for the foundations of the church were the gift of Dr. John Peyre Thomas of Mt. Hope, in whose kiln they were made. The lumber was the gift of Edward Gendron Palmer and Col. Henry Davis. The sum of \$100 was given by Austin Peay of Longtown on the condition that the church be erected east of Ridgeway for the convenience of his sister, Mrs. John Meyers. Mr. Peay was not an Episcopalian and tradition has it that his wife was not to know of this gift, she being an ardent member of another denomination. The work of the building was done by slaves of the Thomas, Palmer and Davis families. The original members of the church consisted of these three families and Mrs. Meyers of Longtown and Richard Matchet of Dutchman's Creek, and Negro slaves, for whom the back seats in the church were reserved. Three Negro slaves received communion in the pre-war days of the church.

During the early year of the parish at Ridgeway it is difficult to say much, for the diocesan convention reports were combined with those of St. John's parish, Winnsborough. We find that the Rev. M. Obear assisted Mr. McCullough constantly. In 1858 Mr. Edward Gendron Palmer was the parish's delegate to the Diocesan convention in Greenville. On January 1, 1859, the first burial was held at St. Stephen's when John Peyre Thomas, M. D., of Mt. Hope was laid to rest at the east end of the church directly beyond the altar. Two of his late sons, who had been buried at Aimwell cemetery, were later moved to St. Stephen's and buried in one grave near their father. The churchyard has since been used as a burial ground for members and families of the congregation. There are now 75 graves in the quiet churchyard.

In 1860 the Rev. James Theodore Hutchison became rector and was succeeded by the Rev. W. W. Lord, D. D., in 1864, who served for one year. During this turbulent period of the

Confederate war we know there were services and baptisms and confirmation, but we have no records. St. John's church in Winnsborough was burned February 21-22, 1865, by Sherman's soldiers. St. Stephen's was fortunately spared, though we know soldiers passed it going from the railroad at Ridgeway to Longtown where they burned Colonel Peay's large house. The melodeon, Bible and prayer books were taken from St. Stephen's during the war by poor whites but later found and returned.

In the fall of 1865 in St. John's, Winnsborough, Bishop Davis ordained William Porcher DuBose to the Holy Order of Priesthood, and he forthwith became rector of St. John's, Winnsborough, and St. Stephen's, Ridgeway, served the two churches three years. It is his teachings and writings which English scholars have said are the Western Hemisphere's greatest contribution to theology. Before his death Doctor DuBose was dean of the theological school of the University of the South at Sewanee.

Succeeds DuBose.

Doctor DuBose was succeeded by the Rev. R. W. Memminger, who served as a deacon for two years, 1868-1870. In 1869 Mr. Memminger reported that "St. Stephen's consists of four families. They have contributed to Communion Alms, \$5.10, Diocesan Missions, \$14.30." During his year the first recorded marriage was held in St. Stephen's church, that of Robert H. Edmunds to Anna R. Thomas, and in 1870 Charles E. Thomas to Anne C. Thomas.

The Rev. William H. Campbell became rector in 1870 and during his second year reported to the convention in Charleston, "I feel much encouraged in my work, and trust God's Holy Spirit is influencing the hearts of our people for good."

"The congregations of both St. John's and St. Stephen's are very zealous and much interested in every thing connected with the Church."

In August, 1872, Bishop William Bell Howe reported, "Preached (August 3) in the forenoon in St. Stephen's Church, Ridgeway, and confirmed eight white persons." Again on August 8 he reported, "At St. Stephen's Church, Ridgeway, in Fairfield, I preached and celebrated the Communion. This is a very neat chapel, and a little before my visit it had received a very chaste baptismal font from the congregation and Rector of St. Chrysostom's Church, New York City." In 1873 we find that the parish has five families, eight males and ten females and five children. The total expenditures for 1875 were \$139.40, \$100 of which was for the rector's salary, and \$2.35 a gift to the University of the South. This is the first year we have a record of vestrymen, Robert H. Edmunds and John Rosborough Thomas.

Again in 1876 Mr. Obear became rector, having assisted during previous years, since his resignation in 1849. The convention delegate was John Rosborough Thomas.

The ladies of the congregation presented the church "a handsome organ" in 1879, replacing the melodeon which had long been in use. We find that several new names are among the contributors, Richard S. Desportes, T. L. Bulow and a Mr. Horry, in addition to the earlier members. Charles E. Thomas was serving as treasurer and lay reader. In 1881 he mentions repairing and repainting the wood paling fence, which most of us recall with its granite posts, now the foundation of the concrete steps of the church. Memorable in 1882 was the loss through death of the Rev. Josiah Obear, connected with the parish since 1841. The white marble tablet with its black lettering in the chancel, to the right of the altar, "For forty years he taught us by precept and holy example to—Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with

our God," is indicative of the esteem in which he was held.

It is interesting to recall that Mr. Obear was ordained in St. Stephen's church, Middlebury, Vt. However, the local church, no doubt, took its name from old St. Stephen's parish in lower South Carolina, the ancestral seat of the Palmer and Thomas families before their advent to the up-county.

Meares, Delegate.

The Journal tells us in 1883 that the Rev. Frank Hallam has become rector and brought "new life and vigor into this mission." The rector's salary was lowered to \$85, however. In 1884 among delegates to the convention we find that of R. A. Meares, now to be familiar in the local parish.

The Rev. John Gass became rector in 1884 and in 1885 we find the parish to have increased to "nine families with 22 children and 58 whole souls," according to the records. The Rev. G. H. Edwards served for a short time in 1887 as rector and was replaced by the Rev. James G. Glass in 1887. The Rev. Alexander R. Mitchell of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Columbia, held several services at St. Stephens. At this time the church records were burned in Winnsboro when the house Mr. Glass occupied was destroyed. During this period the Sunday school had four teachers with 14 pupils. The beginning of the school is indefinite but we know that Charles E. Thomas was active in it before his death in 1887. In 1889 by action of the convention of the Diocese of South Carolina, St. Stephen's became a separate parish organization.

The Rev. G. L. Sweeney, D. D., served as rector in 1891 and was followed by the Rev. Alexander R. Mitchell in 1892, who organized the Woman's guild. The Rev. Steven Prentiss served in 1893-94 and was succeeded by the Rev. Edward Benedict. His successor was the Rev. W. Norwood Tillinghast, first rector of St. Stephen's who did not also serve St. John's in Winnsboro. It was he who developed the first trained choir at St. Stephen's. The Rev. Harvey Orrin Judd served from 1903-06, succeeded by the Rev. William John Webster, D. D., 1907-08. The Rev. Robert A. Chace, 1909-10, not only brought renewed vigor into St. Stephen's and was instrumental in replacing the paling fence across the front of the churchyard with the present iron fence but more important, Mr. Chace founded the mission of Our Saviour at Rion in 1909 with the help of the late Benjamin H. Heyward and his family. The brass tablet in the chancel recording this fact was removed to St. Stephen's from Rion when the mission was closed in 1927.

Rectory Purchased.

The Rev. Roberts P. Johnson was rector in 1910-11, following which time the Woman's guild started the movement which resulted in the purchase of the rectory. Additional land was donated adjoining the church property by the Davis estate. The building was bought and moved from its former site south of Dr. LeGrand Guerry's home just east of the railroad and across from the R. A. Meares' home. The study was added, the kitchen having been moved without being demolished.

The Rev. F. N. Skinner, D. D., became rector in 1913, living in the rectory as the first full time priest. This enabled the congregation to have more frequent services, a flourishing Sunday school, well organized Lenten services and in 1915 the annual convocation of Columbia was held in the parish. Mr. Skinner served until 1919, during the period of the World war when seven members of the church served their country, as the honor roll in the vestibule attests, Gaston Meares, Edward G. Palmer, Jr., Halbert Palmer, John Davis Palmer, Jr., Norman Hart Palmer, Daniel Webster Ruff, Jr., and Frederick Snowden Skinner.

The Rev. W. Preston Peyton was the next rector and served from 1920

to 1926 with unstinted devotion. He was succeeded for a short time by the Rev. G. B. Lucas, the Rev. I. de L. Brayshaw and in 1929 by the Rev. Sanders Guignard, who served with devotion until his death in 1936. The Rev. Louis O. Thomas was rector in 1937-38, since which time the Rev. Frank J. Allen has been in charge.

Physical Changes.

Physically the church has changed some during its four score and five years. Originally its pinewood exterior was painted red and hence the early popular name of "the Red church." This was later changed to a dull dark green, but sentiment again brought red, a deeper red which soon faded to a brown. This was its appearance when a bequest in the will of the late I. C. Thomas made the present brick veneer possible in the early 1920s. The interior changes have been slight. The choir was once directly in line with the south vestibule, with a red rep curtain concealing the choristers. This curtain was drawn during the singing and opened for the sermon. The original reading desk and pulpit were circular and of pine. The Rev. Mr. Hallam solicited gifts of walnut and made an altar, lectern and prayer desk. Mr. Charles E. Thomas carved the letters, "Holy, Holy, Holy," and built the altar. This was replaced by the present altar in the Rev. Mr. Chace's time. The old altar given to the mission of Our Saviour in Rio. It is now in St. Paul's church, Conway. The old reading desk was made into book cases, one of which is now in the vestibule, and the pulpit was presented to Aimwell Presbyterian church and later to the Negro Presbyterian church, one mile south of Ridgeway, which was built from the timber of the old Aimwell church in the cemetery. The three altar windows were originally frosted glass. Miss Henrietta E. Thomas procured the first paper and her brother Charles E. Thomas arranged it on the new clear glass windows. Some years later the ladies of the church put paper on the other windows. Following the death of Col. David DuBose Gaillard his widow repapered all the windows, as well as the old red carpet being replaced by a green one. The present green carpet was a gift made possible by the late Mrs. Harry W. DesPortes. Numerous other gifts attest the love of members or are memorials. The silver communion service of two patens and two chalices were the gift of Mrs. Jane Marshall Thomas, wife of the Rev. Edward Thomas of Strawberry chapel, near Charleston in 1855. During Sherman's raid the box and service were buried at Mt. Hope and remained in the ground three weeks, thereby saving it from possible loss or destruction. The present Bible was a gift of Mrs. Annie C. (Charles E.) Thomas in 1909. The brass cross on the altar is a gift of the Junior auxiliary in memoriam of Belle H. Davis, who founded the auxiliary. The two brass vases are a memorial to Mrs. Charlotte Henrietta (John Peyre) Thomas. The altar service stand and book is a memorial to Miss Catherine Maria Palmer and the gift of Mrs. David DuBose (Kate Davis) Gaillard. The wood cross hymn board was a gift of one of the Sunday school classes in 1910. The bishop's chair was purchased with funds from a bequest of the late William Rosborough Thomas. The steel fence was presented as a memorial to the late Charlotte Anna Edmunds, and through a bequest in the will of Robert H. McKelvey, electric lights were put in the church in the early 1920s to replace coal oil lamps. The purple altar hangings were the gift of Mrs. Ben Cassels, the former Miss Dump Davis; a hand woven linen altar cloth for the communion service was given by Miss Eleanor B. Taft and Lewis S. Taft of Frankfort, Ky., who also gave the glass wine decanters. The brass alms basin was the gift of Mrs. W. H. (Eloise Davis) Ruff, Mrs. D. W. (Florence Rembert) Ruff and L. E. Hooten, as a memorial to Florence

Ruff Hooten. The eucharistic candlesticks are a memorial to the late Annie Lee Thomas LeMaster, and the five branch candlesticks are a memorial to the late Mrs. Palmer.

Pictures in Vestibule.

An interesting collection of pictures of the nine bishops of the Diocese of South Carolina, and the two bishops of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, hang in the vestibule of the church, with pictures of many of the 30 rectors who have served Saint Stephens in its 100 years.

The church has recently been marked with a white marble tablet on the outside wall near the east doorway, which is inscribed: "Cedar Creek mission, founded 1839. Saint Stephen's Episcopal church, consecrated August 4, 1854."

We now know Ridgeway as a town of four churches, the Presbyterian first organized about 1790, the Episcopal beginning in 1839, the Methodist or Ruff Chapel, as it was the gift of the late David H. Ruff in about 1872 with a bell especially cast in which were melted 60 silver dollars in order to give it a mellow tone, and the Baptist church, organized in 1885 and the building erected in 1887. It is a long cry from the early days of slave labor, horse-drawn carriages and boggy roads, but we can well reflect on the vision of our fathers for when they builded, they builded well.

Rectors of St. Stephen's Church, Ridgeway, S. C., 1839-1939:

1839-1841—The Rev. Cranmore Wallace.
1841-1849—The Rev. Josiah Obear.
1850-1854—The Rev. John J. Roberts.
1854-1856—The Rev. Roberts Johnson.
1856-1859—The Rev. John D. McCollough.
1860-1864—The Rev. Theodore Hutcherson.
1864-1865—The Rev. W. W. Lord, D. D.
1865-1868—The Rev. William Porcher DuBose, D. D.
1868-1870—The Rev. W. W. Memminger.
1870-1874—The Rev. William H. Campbell.
1876-1882—The Rev. Josiah Obear.
1883-1884—The Rev. Frank Hallam.
1884-1886—The Rev. John Gass.
1877—The Rev. J. H. Edwards.
1887-1890—The Rev. James G. Glass, D. D.
1891-1892—The Rev. G. L. Sweeney, D. D.
1892-1893—The Rev. Alexander R. Mitchell, D. D.
1893-1894—The Rev. Steven Prentiss.
1894—The Rev. Edward Benedict.
—The Rev. W. Norwood Tillinghast.

1903-1906—The Rev. Harvey Orrin Judd.
1907-1908—The Rev. William John Webster, D. D.
1909-1910—The Rev. Robert A. Chace.
1910-1911—The Rev. Roberts P. Johnson.
1913-1919—The Rev. Frederick N. Skinner, D. D.
1920-1926—The Rev. W. Preston Peyton.
1926-1927—The Rev. G. B. Lucas.
1927-1929—The Rev. deL. Brayshaw.
1929-1936—The Rev. Sanders Guignard.
1937-1938—The Rev. Louis O. Thomas.

Bishops of Upper South Carolina, 1922-1939.

First Bishop—The Rt. Rev. Kirkman G. Finlay, D. D. Consecrated January 20, 1921. Died 1938.
Second Bishop—The Rt. Rev. John J. Gravatt, D. D. Consecrated May, 1939.

Bishops of South Carolina—1793-1939.

First Bishop—The Rt. Rev. Robert Smith, D. D. Consecrated September 13, 1795. Died October 28, 1801.
Second Bishop—The Rt. Rev. Theodore Dehon, D. D. Consecrated October 15, 1812. Died August 6, 1817.

Third Bishop—The Rt. Rev. Nathaniel Bowen, D. D. Consecrated October 18, 1818. Died August 25, 1839.

Fourth Bishop—The Rt. Rev. Christopher E. Gadsden, D. D. Consecrated June 21, 1840. Died June 24, 1852.

Fifth Bishop—The Rt. Rev. Thomas Frederick Davis, D. D. Consecrated October 17, 1853. Died December 2, 1871. (Consecrated St. Stephen's church, August 4, 1854.)

Sixth Bishop—The Rt. Rev. William Bell White Howe, D. D. Consecrated October 8, 1871. Died November 25, 1894.

Seventh Bishop—The Rt. Rev. Ellison Capers, D. D. Consecrated July 20, 1893. Died April 22, 1908.

Eighth Bishop—The Rt. Rev. William Alexander Guerry, D. D. Consecrated September 15, 1907. Died June 9, 1928.

Ninth Bishop—The Rt. Rev. Albert Sidney Thomas, D. D., S. T. D., LL. D. Consecrated November 28, 1928.

Bible at St. Stephen's Preserves 1860 Relic

Church at Ridgeway Treasures Special Prayer and Collection of Bishop Thomas F. Davis to Parishes of His Diocese. *State - Dec 28 '37*

Ridgeway, Feb. 27.—For more than 75 years, between the leaves of the old Bible in St. Stephen's Episcopal church at Ridgeway has been the admonition that Bishop Thomas F. Davis of the diocese of South Carolina sent his parishes in 1860 to pray for God's help because of the "threatening and critical condition of the country at the present." The bishop sent with this letter a prayer and collect to be used twice daily "on all occasions during the ensuing session or sessions of our legislature."

It is of especial interest that the Episcopal church in the United States was one of the few that did not separate itself into North and South during the Confederate war.

Bishop Davis' letter and prayer and collect were as follows:

Beloved Brethren: In every time of public anxiety and trial it becomes us as a people to humble ourselves before God and seek unto Him in prayer. The threatening and critical condition of the country at present calls upon us for such humiliation and supplication before God. I have felt it my duty, therefore, to set forth the ensuing prayer and collect to be used before the two final prayers of morning and evening service on all occasions during the ensuing session or sessions of our legislature. Let me request that it shall be so used by you and let us all come before God continually in prayer that we may find grace and help in our time of need.

Very affectionately, your brother in Christ,
THOMAS F. DAVIS,
Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina.

Camden, November 1, 1860.

Prayer.

O, Almighty and eternal God, who dwelling in the heavens, rulest over all and governest the nationals upon earth, dispensing to all their destinies according to thy holy and righteous will, we acknowledge our entire dependence upon thee. We humble ourselves before thee, under a deep sense of our unworthiness and awful apprehension of thy divine majesty. Be merciful to us, O God of our salvation, in this our day of trial and necessity. Hear our prayer and let

our cry come unto thee. Look down from heaven, we beseech thee, upon the people of these United States; visit and enlighten their hearts; order their will and affections and overrule all their purposes to the ends of truth and justice, of righteousness and peace. We beseech thee especially to bless the people of this state. Thou, O God, sittest upon the throne judging right. Our hearts are open unto thee. To thee we make our prayer. Pardon the sins of thy people and direct all their ways. Make them obedient to thy blessed will and acceptable in thy sight, that so we may be thy people and thou may'st be our God. Endue the general assembly of this state, now in session, with the spirit of wisdom, of courage and of a sound mind. Sanctify and rule their hearts by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost. Save them from all error and inspire and guide their counsels that so their decisions may be righteous in thy sight and such as thou wilt bless, prosper and establish. Bless our governor and all others in authority. Give unto them wisdom and strength that all their acts may tend only to the promotion of thy glory and the happiness of thy people. And, O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and Redeemer of all mankind, pour thy spirit upon all orders and degrees of men among us and subdue their will to the blessed Gospel of the Son of God; so that thy people may be adorned with that righteousness which becometh a nation and blessed by thee forever more. Through Jesus Christ our Lord to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be glory and dominion world without end. Amen.

The Collect.

O, Almighty God, the supreme governor of all things, whose power no creature is able to resist, to whom it belongeth justly to punish sinners and to be merciful to those who truly repent: save and deliver us, we humbly beseech thee, in this, the day of our great need and peril; that we, secure in thy defense, may be preserved ever more to glorify thee, who are the only giver of peace, prosperity and safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.