

Psalme 140

The Church prayeth that her children may auoide finful wordes, 4. not make excufes of finnes committed, not communicate with others in finne, nor to harken to flatterers: 6. but to pray that they may amend (the Pfalmift by the way prophecieth that manie shal be conuerted) 8. though fometimes perfecution be great, the Church faileth not.

The Church prayeth and preuaileth. The 6. key.

A Pfalme of Daud.

Lord I haue cried to thee, heare me: attend to my voice, when I shal crie to thee.
^aLet my prayer be directed as ^bincense in thy fight: the eleuation of my handes as ^ceuening sacrifice.
³ Set ô Lord ^da watch to my mouth: and ^ea doore round about to my lippes.
⁴ Decline not my hart ^finto wordes of malice, to make excufes in finnes.
 With men that worke iniquitie: and I wil not communicate with the chiefe of them.

-
- ^a In these wordes the Church prayeth, offering incense in her solemne Offices.
 - ^b As the fume of incense is fwete and ascendeth vpwards: so the Church prayeth that her petitions may be grateful, and ascend to God.
 - ^c In the old testament morning sacrifice was rather more solemne, and more frequent, but the Prophet semeth to allude vnto Christs Sacrifice, which he was to offer towards euening on the Croffe: and the same also in vnbloudie maner, the euening before his Passion, in the Eucharist.
 - ^d A iust care and confideration, what to speake, before the mouth be opened.
 - ^e Lippes must not be alwayes stopt, for it is a finne fometimes not to speake, but as a dore that is to be opened, and shut at due seasons: for example, opened to confesse our finnes, and Gods truth:
 - ^f shutte from wordes of malice, and from excusing finnes committed.

⁵ The iuft ſhal rebuke me in mercie, and ^{a)} ſhal reprehend me: but let not the oyle of a finner ^{b)} fatte my head.

Becaufe ^{c)} yet alfo my prayer is in their ^{d)} good pleafures: ^{6 e)} their iudges are fwallowed vp ioyned to the rocke.

They ^{f)} ſhal heare my wordes ^{g)} becaufe they haue preuailed: ^{7 h)} as the groffenes of the earth is broken out vpon the earth.

Our ⁱ⁾ bones are diffipated ^{j)} nere to hel: ^{8 k)} for to thee ô Lord, Lord are mine eies; in thee haue I hoped, life. take not away my ‘foule.’

⁹ Keepe me from ^{l)} the fnare, which they haue fet for me: and from ^{m)} the fcandals of them that worke iniquitie.

^a Admonition of the iuft is a profitable reprehention,

^b but the fawning of flatterers is pernicious.

^c The Church ceafeth not to pray for finners,

^d though as yet they take pleafure in their finnes,

^e but the chiefteft of them, which feme moft potent, if they remaine obftinate to their death, ſhal then periſh, as men throwne againſt rockes.

^f They ſhal then heare and vnderftand, that the prayers of the Church

^g are effectual, obtaining grace of conftancie to her children, not to feare anie perfecution, nor anie kind of death; obtayning alfo iuftificatiō of their caufe, vvhen the perfecuters ſhal fee that the wordes, and doctrin of the Church are true, and preuaile in true iudgement, as true, modeft, peaceable, not fedicious, turbulent, nor againſt the commonwealth.

^h As much earth fticking together is made fruitful, by breaking it into ſmal mould, ſo the children of the Church by perfecution, bring forth more fruct then before. *S. Aug.*

ⁱ Some perfecuters are ſo cruel as to rage againſt the bones, and other reliques of Martyrs,

^j caſting them into the vileſt places they can, willing if they could, to throw them into hel,

^k but the Church and al her members repoſe confidence in God.

^l Therefore ſhe prayeth that her children be not entrapped by guilful deceiptes,

^m nor ouerthrowne by anie ftumbling blocke caſt in their way.

¹⁰ a) Sinners shall fall in his net: b) I am alone until I
pass.

^a In the end, all persecutors and other wicked shall be caught in their
own net of perdition,
^b the Church is singularly protected even to the end.