EPHIPHANY 2

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1.	What do we acknowledge God to be? A. <u>A</u> and <u>E</u> (Psalm 14:16)
2.	What does God govern? A. All things in and (Psalm 22:28)
3.	What do we beseech Him to hear? A. Our (another word for prayers) (Psalm 4:1)
4.	What do we beseech Him to grant? A. His (Philippians 4:6-7)
5.	How long do we pray Him to grant us this peace? A. All the days of our (Psalm 48:14)

INTRODUCTION.

In today's Collect, what do we ask God to grant? 'Thy peace.' What is peace? Sometimes peace can describe things outside of ourselves: If two countries are allies, and not at war with each other, we say that they are at peace. If two neighbors are friends, there is peace between them. Sometimes peace can describe something inside of ourselves. If we are worried about something, we do not have peace on the inside. Peace can also describe our relationship with God. This is the most important kind of peace, and it comes by having our one focus be on Him. This is the kind of peace we are asking for in the Collect.

"See, my children, a person who is in a state of sin is always sad. Whatever he does, he is weary and disgusted with every thing; while he who is at peace with God is always happy, always joyous... Oh, beautiful life! Oh, beautiful death!"
--St. Jean Marie Baptiste Vianney

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I. PEACE IS THE TRANQUILITY OF ORDER.

- In the natural world, dis-order shows itself as a disturbance of peace. This is visible in war, split personalities, nervous breakdowns, and the divided heart that keeps the sinner always in misery.
- 2. In the supernatural, dis-order shows itself as sorry for a wrongdoing, yet at the same time still having an appetite for that same sin.
- 3. To have order, all motives must be focused on the same goal. This is the only way to have peace.
- 4. To have peace with God, a person's motives must all be focused on the goal of conforming to God's Will.

II. PEACE IS VIGOROUS AND LIVELY.

- 1. Peace is not the stagnation of inactivity. Peace is not sleepiness or removing oneself from the difficulties of earthly life.
- 2. Peace gives the heart vigor, for, focusing on the Goal, it is free from the horrors of arguing with itself. It can charge ahead with ordered energies and concentrate on the One Goal with no distractions.

A great means to preserve peace and tranquility of soul is to receive everything from the hands of God, both great and small, and in whatever way it comes.

--St. Dorotheus

III. JESUS SHOWS US HOW TO HAVE PEACE.

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- 3. Jesus tells us in John 14:27: ______ I leave with you; my peace I give to you. _____ as the _____ gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be _____, neither let them be