

Part of a prayer written by William Barclay for the third Sunday of Lent:

O God, you are the help of the helpless.

You can cover our defenceless head with the shadow of your wing.

It is for your defence and protection that we ask today.

Defend us against the changes and chances of this life.

Not that we may escape them,

But that we may meet them with head erect and with steady eyes;

Not that we may be saved from them,

But that we may come triumphantly through them.

Defend us alike

From discouragement in difficulty

And from despair in failure;

From pride in success

And from forgetting you in the day of prosperity.

Help us to remember that

There is no time

when you will fail us,

And no moment

when we do not need you.

So grant that, guided by your light

and defended by your grace,

We may come in safety and honour to our journey's end.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.