

My Public Prayer

I come today in the presence of all of these distinguished guests to pray in name of Him who cannot be named in public places. I come in the name of Him who is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I come in the name of Him who has been given all power in heaven and earth. I come to the One who is the Author and Finisher of our faith, the Captain of our Salvation, the Bright and Morning Star. I come to pray to the One in whom all fullness dwells. I pray today to the One who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation. I bow my knee to the One who is before all things and in whom all things consist. I pray today to the First-born from the dead, who is pre-eminent in all things. I lift up my voice to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Faithful and True, whose head is adorned with many crowns, whose eyes are like a flame of fire. While I can pray in public to the Living One, who became dead, and is now alive forever and ever, I must not use your name. You are despised and rejected of men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. You were wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. You were oppressed and afflicted. You were brought as a sheep to the slaughter. By your stripes we are healed. It pleased the Father to crush You, that your soul might be offered up as a guilt-offering. All this You did for us, but your name must not be spoken in public places. You have said in your word, "I am the bread of life". You have said "I am the Light of the World". You have said "I am the door of the sheep and the Great Shepherd". You have said "I am the Resurrection and the Life". You have said "I am the True Vine". The miracles that You did gave witness that these statements are true. You have given sight to the blind. You have healed the sick. You have made the lame to walk. You have raised the dead. You have bound up the brokenhearted. Most of all you gave spiritual life to the lost. Men have tried to explain away your miracles. But no one can explain away the empty tomb and a risen Lord.

You have said "I am the Way the Truth and the Life and that no there is no other way to come to the Father". Those of other beliefs hate those words. Because they believe all faiths are equally valid, they protest every time your name is mentioned in public places. So in order to please man rather than God, in order to give greater honor to the creation than the Creator, your name will not be spoken here today.

We recognize your blessings and give thanks for your bounty. We ask for your protecting power. We may talk of justice and peace for all. Yet, we will not speak of the world's greatest need, to repent from their sins and come to You. This would be offensive. Many would trivialize You by giving You no more import than any other proclaimed deity. But the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will not and cannot share His throne with any other.

Your children are considered weak or ignorant. Your name has great power to offend. You came unto your own and your own received You not. It is a good name. It is a name above every name. Someday every knee will bow at the mere mention of your name. But that name will not be spoken here, not at this time or in this place.

This wondrous name must not be spoken in so many public places. It cannot be mentioned in government assemblies. It cannot be spoken in our schools. It is censored out of graduation speeches. Military chaplains cannot pray in your name. In our schools and universities, it is not permitted to teach even the possibility of a Creator. In You we live and move and have our being. But we live in a world that will not have You to reign over us. We live in a world that will celebrate your birth, but rejects your teachings and your commandments.

When You ascended up into heaven to take Your rightful place at the right hand of the Father, an angel declared that this same One, the One who cannot be named, would come again in like manner. We look forward to that day. In that day, You will gather your own unto yourself for all eternity. When You come again, your name will given its due respect. You will be revealed as the Omnipotent, Omniscient One. Your glory will shine forth for the entire world to see. Those who have rejected You will weep and mourn over a wasted life and eternity lost. Your Lordship will be proclaimed by every voice and your name will be on every tongue. But for now, we are in a public place surrounded by these who are so tolerant of all truth, except real truth. So that name, that precious name, will not be spoken today. In the name of the One who cannot be named, Amen.

L. McCord