



Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
unuttered or expressed;
the motion of a hidden fire
that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
the falling of a tear
the upward glancing of an eye,
when none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
that infant lips can try;
prayer the sublimest strains that reach
the majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
returning from his ways,
while angels in their songs rejoice
and cry, "The sinner prays!"

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
the Christian's native air,
our watchword at the gates of death;
he enters heaven with prayer.

O you, by whom we come to God,
the Life, the Truth, the Way;
the path of prayer yourself have trod:
Lord, teach us how to pray!