

## Translations of the Vota in the *Altenburger Bibelwerk* by Franciscus Vierling

The *Altenburger Bibelwerk* was a devotional edition of the Bible based on the notes and commentaries by Luther, his associates and students. It was different from the study Bibles we have today. Chapters or parts of chapters had a written introduction followed by the Bible text, a summary or commentary, and a short reflective prayer or blessing (called a Votum). These prayers or blessings were written by Franciscus Vierling and were first published in the 1676 edition. What follows are translations of all the Vota from the Gospel of Matthew. These can be used devotionally as you read the given portion of the Scripture, or they can be used on their own as prayers and blessings.

For more information, see [this article in the \*Concordia Cyclopedia\*](#).

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### Matthew 1

We thank God with great joy for the blessed conception and birth of his beloved Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. May he help us so that we steadfastly believe in him and show Christian love and faithfulness to our neighbor for his bodily needs at all times. Amen. [1.]

### Matthew 2

Glory, praise, honor, and thanks to our merciful, gracious God, that he has called us from the heathen world to the kingdom of his Son. May he press his Christendom further and help us to remain steadfast in the true faith and on the Christian path under every cross and in all persecution. Amen. [2.]

### Matthew 3

May our true, eternal and living God govern us that we may know his being and his will from his holy Word, so that we are comforted in every need and in death, and that we praise and glorify him in true faith and Christian living until our last blessed hour. Amen. [3.]

### Matthew 4

We thank God, our dear heavenly Father, who gives and upholds faithful teachers still today. Grant that we may also learn and take to heart your holy Word, so that we may overcome all afflictions and hold the victory in Christ Jesus. Amen. [4.]

### **Matthew 5:1-20**

May the faithful, merciful God govern and enlighten us so that we may rightly understand and learn his holy commandments, and remain faithful to him and his commands always, in true repentance, faith, prayer, joy, and comfort until our last blessed hour. Amen. [5.]

### **Matthew 5:21-26**

May our dear Lord God make these teachings live within our hearts, so that they may they may spur us on, and that all hatred and envy may fade away, and in their place, plant in us patience and gentleness, to his glory and for our clear conscience. Amen. [6.]

### **Matthew 5:27-37**

May the merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ help us since we inwardly and outwardly sin against him and against all people so that we may praise and glorify his name with inward and outward virtues until our blessed end. Amen. [7.]

### **Matthew 5:38-48**

May our Lord Jesus govern and guide us all by his Holy Spirit so that we may never seek revenge for ourselves on anyone, and that we may gladly help needy and oppressed people, and even serve and encourage our enemies for the praise and glory of their heavenly Father and ours. Amen. [8.]

### **Matthew 6:1-4**

May God give us his Holy Spirit so that we may learn to know the roots of pride, and that they may be pulled out of our hearts, and implant true fear of God and confession of our weakness and true confidence in God and reliance on Christ in their place. Amen. [9.]

### **Matthew 6:5-15**

May our faithful God give us all the Spirit of grace and prayer, that we cry out ‘*Abba*, dear Father’ in all of our needs, and show us his fatherly, merciful help for the needs of our body and soul, for our present and eternal welfare, for the sake of Jesus Christ, his beloved Son. Amen. [10.]

### **Matthew 6:16-18**

May our faithful and merciful God help us so that we fast in a correct and Christian manner, live moderate and chaste lives, bear our crosses and sufferings with patience, and ‘fast’ from all hypocrisy and guard ourselves against other shameful sins, for the praise and glory of his holy divine name. Amen. [11.]

### **Matthew 6:19-34**

May our faithful God, our dear heavenly Father govern us so that we do not prejudge him with our useless cares, but that we pray to him about our work and food, that we remain God-fearing and faithful, and that he would give us all our precious daily bread, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen. [12.]

**Matthew 7:1-11**

May God, the righteous judge of all the world, govern us, that we may practice mercy toward our neighbor, and that he also would show his mercy to us in body and soul and listen to our prayers, and make use of the same prayers for his praise and for our temporal and eternal welfare. Amen. [13.]

**Matthew 7:12-29**

May the chief Bishop of the Church of God on earth, our Lord Jesus Christ, protect us from false teachers and govern us so that we hold fast to his true Word and live Christian lives according to it toward him and our neighbor until our last blessed hour. Amen. [14.]

**Matthew 8:1-22**

May our dear Lord Jesus Christ help us also in body and soul and grant us steadfastness in our profession, work, and ways so that we may praise him and be useful to our neighbors, and cling to him in distress and death. Amen. [15.]

**Matthew 8:23-34**

May the almighty, gracious God prevent the devil from doing any damage to man or beast, stand also by his Christendom in greatest needs as they come upon us, and uphold us through all crosses and misfortunes so that we overcome and remain blessed. Amen. [16.]

**Matthew 9:1-17**

May the merciful and dear God forgive us also all our sins, help us in body and soul for our comfort and strength, and grant that we may overcome every cross in faith and patience and hold on to him, our gracious God and that we may obtain eternal life. Amen. [17.]

**Matthew 9: 18-38**

May the Good Shepherd and overseer of our souls, our Lord Jesus Christ, uphold and give us faithful teachers and preachers, make all sick Christians well, and grant that we may hold fast to him in true faithfulness, even in danger and death. Amen. [18.]

**Matthew 10:1-15**

We give highest thanks to God that he gives us faithful teachers and preachers. May he give blessing and care, protection and defense to them also, and help us so that we may give his Word the obedience it deserves, and from that Word have joy and comfort under every cross and in the bitter distress of death. Amen. [19.]

**Matthew 10:16-42**

God, you have promised to richly reward all pious Christians who help in the ministry of the Word. Bring rich blessing to all true preachers and give them much patience in their office, and turn back all the slanderers and enemies of your gospel's work. Amen. [20.]

**Matthew 11:1-15**

May our faithful God himself be in command of all Christian preachers and give them the gifts of body and soul that they need. Help us also in every need and govern us so that we avoid all offense and be and remain faithful and blessed in Christ. Amen. [21.]

### **Matthew 11:16-30**

Govern us, O Lord Jesus Christ so that we do not despise your holy Word, but instead hear it, so that we daily grow in faithfulness, and from the Word have comfort under every cross, and hold fast in the true faith and remain blessed until our life's end. Amen. [22.]

### **Matthew 12:1-21**

May God almighty grant that we celebrate and observe his Sabbath day in this life according to his will and command, for his glory and obedience, and for our improvement, so that also we may enjoy the heavenly Sabbath in eternal rest, and may praise and thank God for all his wondrous deeds, now and forever. Amen. [23.]

### **Matthew 12:22-37**

May the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, drive back and defeat all who blaspheme his person and his blessed work today. May he help us in every need of body and soul, and after of the darkness of this world, take us to with him in the eternal brightness of heaven. Amen. [24.]

### **Matthew 12:38-50**

May our faithful and mighty God govern us that we may not become secure in ourselves, but steadfastly believe in Christ, show our faith with good works, each according to his calling, always holding firm, that we may remain children of God. Amen. [25.]

### **Matthew 13:1-23**

May the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, hinder all cults and sects, and also govern our authorities so that they may faithfully let his glory, teaching, and church expand and help us so that we may always be and remain hearers and doers of his Word, until our last breath. Amen. [26.]

### **Matthew 13:24-58**

May our Lord Jesus Christ govern us all, so that we follow his faithful teaching, hold the Gospel as our greatest and most needful treasure, and that we daily improve ourselves with it and under every cross and affliction, and hold on to it in life and in death, for its mighty, blessed comfort. Amen. [27.]

### **Matthew 14:1-21**

May our faithful God govern us all, so that each one of us may remain faithful in his Christian calling. May he give us our daily bread, give us also patience under every cross, and help us to that we endure here on earth so that we may live eternally with our Lord Jesus Christ in heaven. Amen. [28.]

### **Matthew 14:22-36**

May the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, help everyone in Christendom today who is in need. Strengthen our weak faith, give us all we need for body and soul so that we all live in him and through him, now and forever. Amen. [29.]

**Matthew 15:1-20**

May our faithful God, our dear Father forgive us all our inward and outward sins and help us so that we are watchful against sinful thoughts, words, and actions, and we remain obedient to his Word and commandments in all we do, suffer and endure in life and death. Amen. [30.]

**Matthew 15:21-39**

May our Lord Jesus Christ, our dear Savior, govern and guide us so that we hold fast to him, that we may have the victory in faith over the devil with all of his afflictions, and in every need, and that we may have a Christian life and a blessed death. Amen. [31.]

**Matthew 16:1-12**

May our dear Lord Jesus Christ break and defeat all false teachers, uphold us with his holy Word and sacrament in true understanding and practice, and help that we are always defended against all false teachers and sinful living. Amen. [32.]

**Matthew 16:13-28**

May our gracious and merciful God convert everyone who can be converted, and uphold us in the true faith in our Lord Christ, and grant that we may remain steadfast under all crosses, and praise and glorify him with our hearts, mouths and godly lives unto eternal life. Amen. [33.]

**Matthew 17:1-13**

May God the Holy Spirit govern and help us so that we may enjoy and find comfort in the eternal life under every troublesome cross, and that we presently listen to the Lord Christ and follow him in an obedient Christian life, and also follow him to the kingdom of heaven, and there hear him, praise and glorify him. Amen. [34.]

**Matthew 17:14-27**

May our Savior and Helper, Jesus Christ, help us so that we display true fear toward him, true obedience toward those in authority, and brotherly love toward our neighbor so that we also live a Christian life and fall asleep in peace. Amen. [35.]

**Matthew 18:1-14**

May our dear heavenly Father incline our hearts to true humility, protect us from pride and arrogance, and turn all offenses from us, and help us so that we are strengthened in the right faith with and serve our neighbor in love, and remain blessed in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. [36.]

**Matthew 18:15-35**

May the gracious and merciful God forgive us all our sins and govern us so that we forgive all those who sin against us, and accept all faithful warnings and admonitions, and employ this to his praise and to our blessedness. Amen. [37.]

**Matthew 19:1-15**

May the Lord Christ himself instruct all beloved children, bless and keep them in body and soul, for their temporal and eternal welfare, and help that all married and unmarried live chaste and modest lives, and through Jesus Christ be blessed. Amen. [38.]

### **Matthew 19:16-30**

May our Lord Christ, our good Master, govern us so that we confess him steadfast before all the world, protect us from greed and serve God according to his holy commands in our calling and station in life, and do good to all mankind, and through him be blessed. Amen. [39.]

### **Matthew 20:1-19**

We thank our faithful, gracious God that he has called and brought us into his vineyard through his Word and holy Baptism, may he help us so that we are busy, humble and patient workers, so that after this toilsome life we receive the joyous eternal life, for the sake of Jesus Christ's work and intercession. Amen. [40.]

### **Matthew 20:20-34**

May God our dear heavenly Father strengthen our faith, so that we seek him in every need and crisis, willingly and faithfully be patient under the cross, and serve also our friends and enemies as our Lord Jesus Christ has served us. Amen. [41.]

### **Matthew 21:1-17**

May our faithful God govern us, so that we may rightly use our temple and church and serve our Lord Christ with pure hearts according to his Word, so that we are prepared and worthy when he comes for us, either in our last hour or in glory on the great day of the last judgement, and receive him with joy. Amen. [42.]

### **Matthew 21:18-27**

May our Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, strengthen our faith and help us so that we receive his word and work, day pray fervently and strive for whatever is needful and useful for body and soul so that we may praise him with all the elect in eternal blessedness. Amen. [43.]

### **Matthew 21:28-46**

We thank God through Jesus Christ his dear Son that he has called us gentiles with his holy Gospel. May he grant that we may faithfully follow his word, and believe on our Lord Christ, and serve him in holiness and righteousness so that we may not be lost and condemned like his ancient people who did not believe and rejected his promise. Amen. [44.]

### **Matthew 22:1-14**

May God help us so that we obediently follow the call of his word, steadfastly believe in Christ, and show our faith with good works, and follow him in the true innocence of his beloved Son, enjoy his eternal goodwill and be blessed. Amen. [45.]

### **Matthew 22:15-46**

May our faithful God govern us by his Holy Spirit so that we humbly serve him and our neighbor and do the duty we owe to those in authority, and may he grant us all, in his time, a blessed last hour, so that we may rise to eternal life on the last day. Amen. [46.]

### **Matthew 23:1-12**

May the almighty and gracious God grant that his holy Word is taught and heard, that teachers and listeners stand well with God, with their conscience, and with their neighbors, in the blessed

work of his grace, and so that they both may be blessed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [47.]

### **Matthew 23:13-39**

To God be praise, glory, honor and thanks that the dear ministry of the gospel and the right usage [of the Sacraments] has returned to the Christian church. May it uphold us and bring prosperity so that faith, love, patience, and all holy virtue may grow in us, that we may put it into practice until we take our last breath. Amen. [48.]

### **Matthew 24:1-14**

We humbly thank God that we have his holy Gospel which defends us from our enemies, false teachers, and tyrants, and helps us so that we may fall into no offenses so that we may live a Christian life, have a blessed death, and rise to eternal life on the last day. Amen. [49.]

### **Matthew 24:15-51**

May God our heavenly Father help us so that we hold fast to his Word in true faith in these troubled and dangerous times, live in true repentance daily, and diligently protect ourselves against false security, desires, and unchristian cares, and on the last day enter eternal life. Amen. [50.]

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

May our dear Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, govern our hearts so that with his strong help we may protect ourselves against false security and willful sins, and wait for him in true faith, and be prepares so that he may lead and take us with him into his heavenly wedding banquet in eternal joy. Amen. [51.]

### **Matthew 25:14-46**

May our faithful and gracious God help us so that each of us may recognize his gifts and thankfully receive and use them to glorify God and serve, comfort and help our neighbor so that we may be found as faithful servants, and not earn his temporal and eternal punishment through willful disobedience. Amen. [52.]

### **Matthew 26:1-29**

May our Lord Jesus Christ give and uphold the correct use of his Holy Supper for us, protect his church from all her enemies, and give us people who will work for the good of those who believe in Christ, that we may serve him with all good works with and praise and glorify him with joy. Amen. [53.]

### **Matthew 26:20-56**

May our Lord Jesus govern us all that we flee all vindictiveness and never condemn the innocent, so that we may remain steadfast and overcome every affliction and cross, and that we may find our comfort always in his bloody sweat, his bitter death, his anguish, and weakness, and finally enjoy eternal life. Amen. [54.]

### **Matthew 26:57-75**

May the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, protect us poor, weak, people from a horrible fall, for we stray much because of our weaknesses. So may he look on us in mercy, as he looked at Peter, and protect us from lies, false witness, and all other sins from now until our last hour. Amen. [55.]

### **Matthew 27:1-26**

May Jesus Christ, our Savior, govern us so that we defend ourselves against sin, and when we fall, that we may not doubt, but repent and live our Christian life, and that we always find our comfort in his sinlessness which covers our sin, and remain blessed for the sake of his humble service. Amen. [56.]

### **Matthew 27:27-44**

We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for enduring the cross, suffering, and death. May he help us so that we may bear all our crosses patiently, and with converted hearts remain blessed, so that we may always give praise and thanks to him, together with our heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen. [57.]

### **Matthew 27:45-66**

May our Lord Christ our Savior help us so that his holy suffering and death may bear fruit in us so that we always serve him as his people, and grant that we also one day may depart this life in joy and peace, and for the sake of his death receive eternal life. Amen. [58.]

### **Matthew 28:1-20**

May our faithful God help us, just as our Lord Christ is risen from death, that we may rise from sin, and daily walk in new life, and as he ascended from death to the highest glory and praise, that we also through death may follow him to his heavenly kingdom and eternal blessedness. Amen. [59.] (There is no Votum for Matthew 28. This is the Votum for Mark 16)