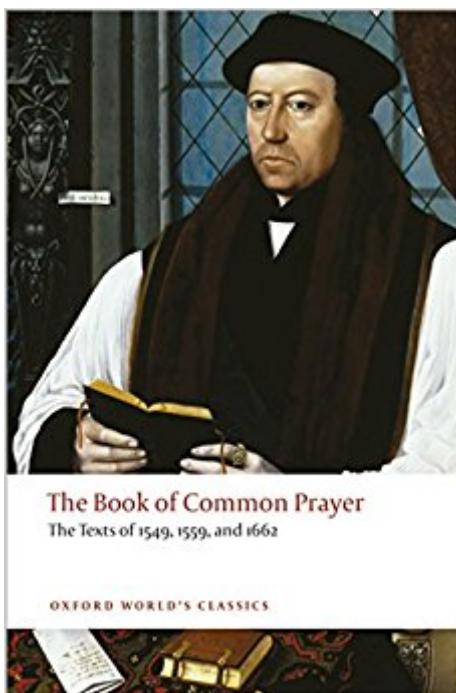


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# The Book Of Common Prayer: The Texts Of 1549, 1559, And 1662 (Oxford World's Classics)



## Synopsis

'In the midst of life we are in death.' The words of the Book of Common Prayer have permeated deep into the English language all over the world. For nearly 500 years, and for countless people, it has provided a background fanfare for a marriage or a funeral march at a burial. Yet this familiarity also hides a violent and controversial history. When it was first produced the Book of Common Prayer provoked riots and rebellion, and it was banned before being translated into a host of global languages and adopted as the basis for worship in the USA and elsewhere to the present day. This edition presents the work in three different states: the first edition of 1549, which brought the Reformation into people's homes; the Elizabethan prayer book of 1559, familiar to Shakespeare and Milton; and the edition of 1662, which embodies the religious temper of the nation down to modern times. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[I]f this edition makes the prayer book texts available to--and appreciated by--more general

readers, it will have served its admirable purpose." -- Catholic Historical Review "Magnificent edition"  
--Diarmaid MacCulloch, London Review of Books "Superb edition...excellent notes and introduction"  
--Rowan Williams, Times Literary Supplement

Brian Cummings received his BA at Cambridge University, where he also took his PhD under the supervision of the poet Geoffrey Hill and the church historian Eamon Duffy. He was previously a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge before moving to Sussex, and, from October 2012, the University of York. He was a British Academy Exchange Fellow at the Huntington Library, California, in 2007 and held a three-year Major Research Fellowship with the Leverhulme Trust from 2009 to 2012.

Brian Cummings has produced an excellent edition of the Prayer Book texts of 1549, 1559, and 1662. It is not a facsimile edition, but the texts are reproduced in a clear and readable format. Many an author has lost his way in the thicket of scholarship surrounding the Tudor and Caroline church. Cummings has provided an introduction which navigates this hugely complex topic in a way that is both helpful and succinct. The author offers notes and commentary on the contents of the three prayer books that is insightful. A select bibliography is provided for those who wish to explore specific issues more fully. This book will be of use to the merely curious and to the serious student.

This is a superb work of scholarship which I can't commend too highly, but the Kindle edition contains hundreds -- and I do mean 'hundreds' -- of textual errors, apparently introduced by scanning and not caught in editing. There are letters replaced by numbers and numbers by letters, a frequent failure to recognize capitals, and general mis-recognition of letters and whole words. I've never yet bought an e-book that didn't have at least a few such errors, but this is the worst one I've ever seen. The hardcover edition, by contrast, is exceptionally well done, and I recommend it without reservation. (I hate this system which makes my criticism of this particular version look like a criticism of the book itself, but doesn't allow us to make subtle distinctions in these reviews. I felt I had to put the one-star warning lest someone buy the Kindle version and not see the problems until after the 7-day return deadline.)

A remarkable volume...the contents are wonderful from the edition of 1662 AD. This edition is still used today in England for Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer rituals.

Lots of historical information included.

The BOOK of Common Prayer is the greatest liturgical collection on earth. Containing prayers both ancient and modern it gives the one praying words to use when they have none.

Good historical document.

excellent! just what i had hoped to receive

excellent notes, excellent condition

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