

# The Texts of 1549, 1559, and 1662 Oxford World Classics: A Literary and Historical Exploration

## : The Significance of the Book of Common Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer is a pivotal liturgical text that has profoundly influenced English society and religious practice for centuries. It is the official prayer book of the Church of England and has played a central role in shaping the spiritual and cultural landscape of England since its inception in the 16th century.



### The Book of Common Prayer: The Texts of 1549, 1559, and 1662 (Oxford World's Classics) by Bright Summaries

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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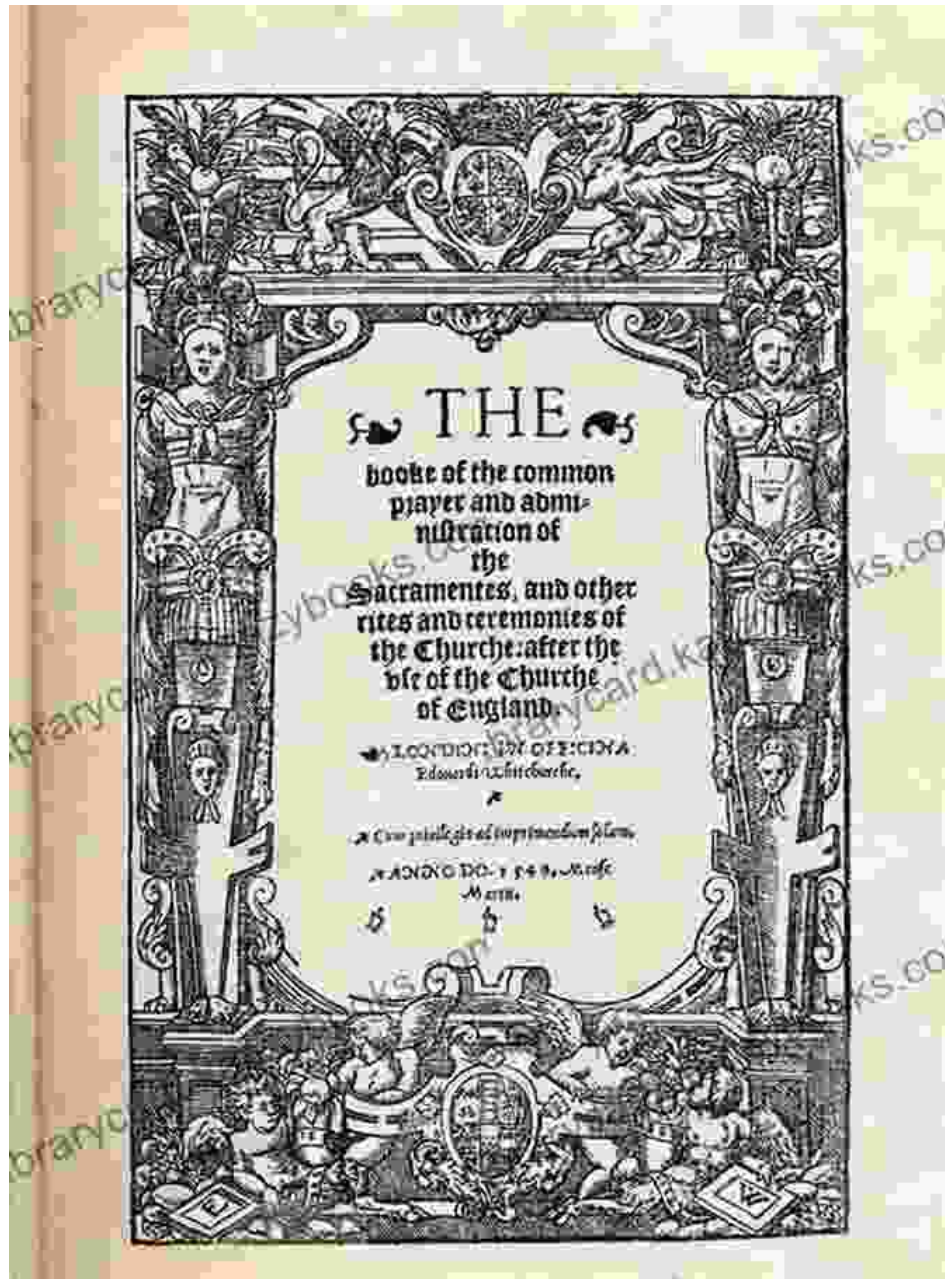


This extraordinary book has undergone a remarkable evolution over time, reflecting the evolving theological, political, and social contexts of English history. Three editions stand out as particularly significant milestones in this journey: the 1549, 1559, and 1662 editions.

## The 1549 Book of Common Prayer: The Dawn of a New Era

The first edition of the Book of Common Prayer, published in 1549, marked a watershed moment in the history of the English Reformation. It was the first authorized liturgical text to replace the traditional Latin Mass and introduced a standardized form of worship in the vernacular. Written primarily by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, the 1549 Prayer Book reflected the Protestant doctrines of justification by faith and the importance of Scripture in religious practice.

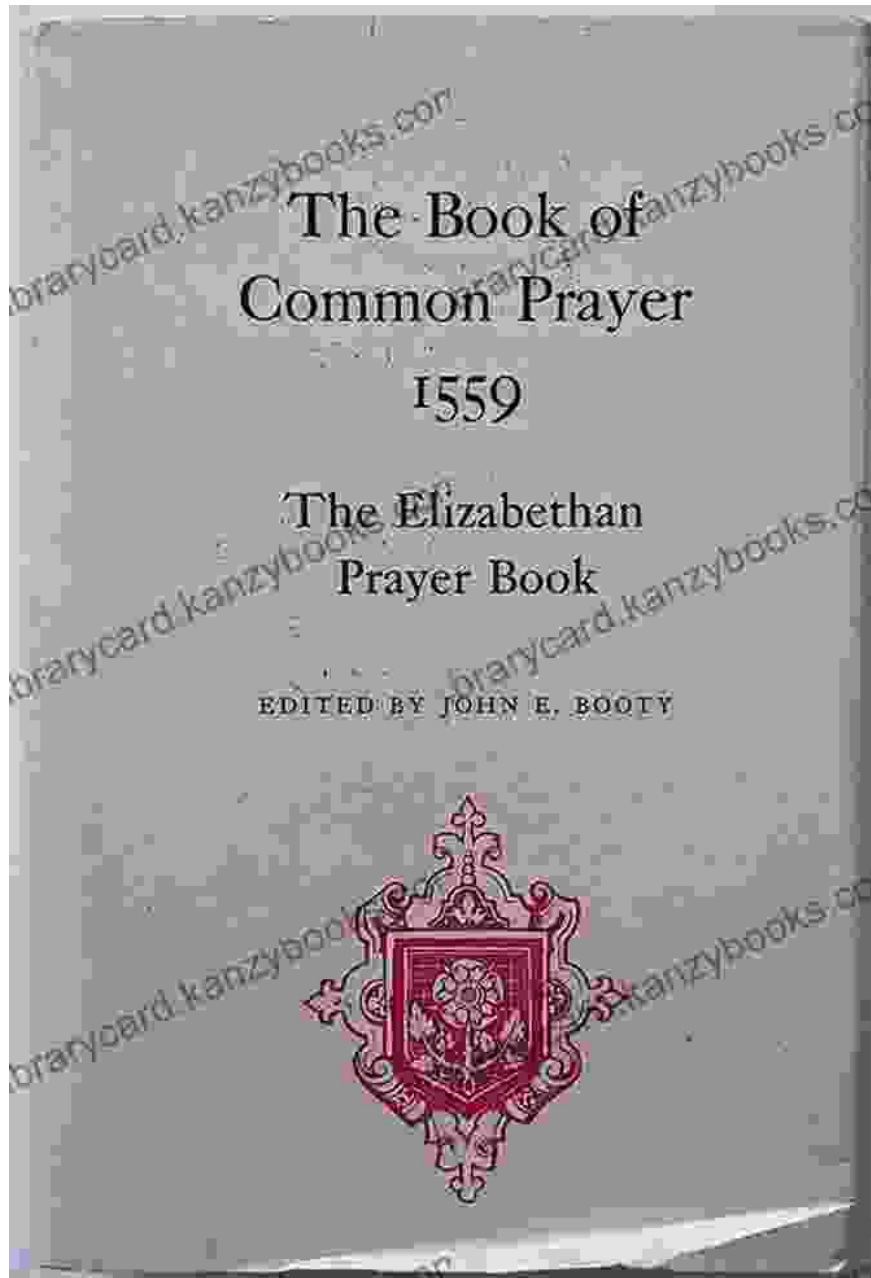
This edition featured a simplified structure and language, making it more accessible to the laity. Key changes included the abolition of mandatory celibacy for clergy, the use of English as the liturgical language, and the addition of a new Communion service that emphasized the memorial aspect of the Lord's Supper.



## The 1559 Book of Common Prayer: A Return to Catholicism

The accession of Queen Mary I in 1553 brought a brief return to Catholicism, and the 1549 Prayer Book was replaced with a revised version in 1559. This edition, often referred to as the "Marian Prayer Book," sought to restore many of the pre-Reformation practices, including the Latin Mass, clerical celibacy, and the veneration of saints.

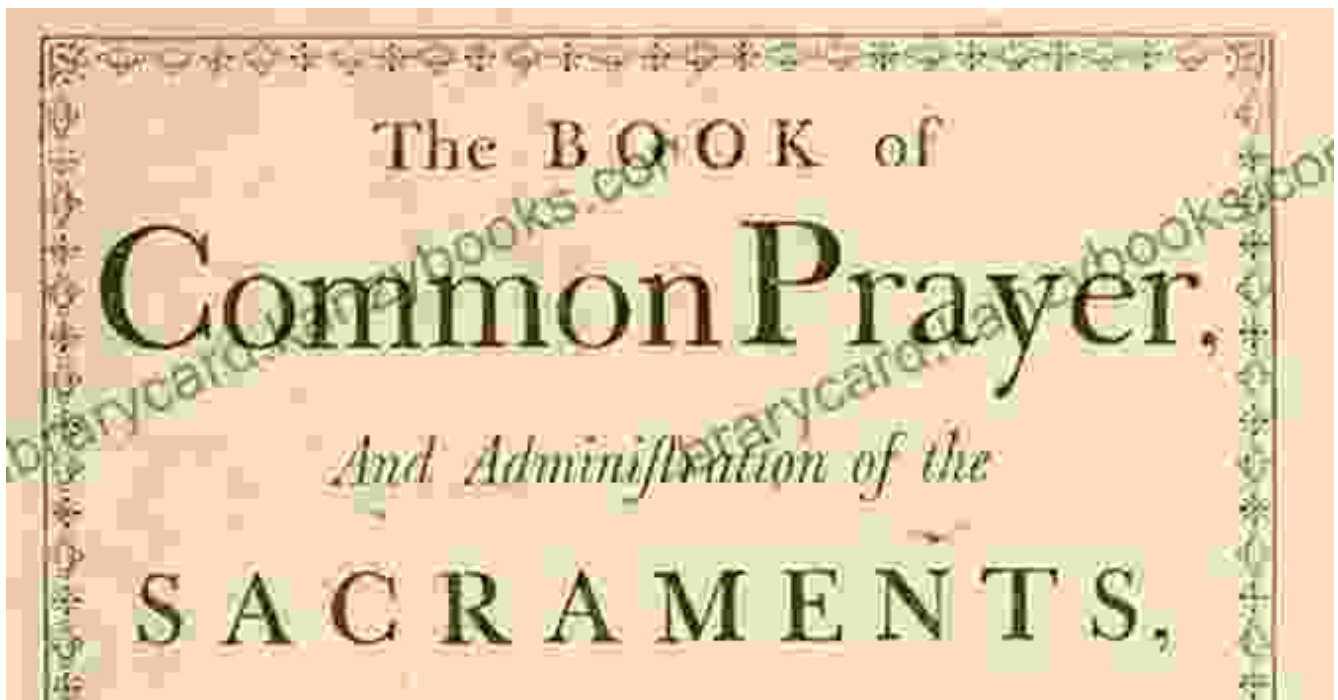
The 1559 Prayer Book was highly controversial and alienated many Protestants, who saw it as a betrayal of the Reformation principles. It was ultimately withdrawn upon the death of Queen Mary and the accession of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558.



The 1559 Book of Common Prayer, also known as the "Marian Prayer Book," restored many pre-Reformation practices, sparking controversy among Protestants. **The 1662 Book of Common Prayer: A Comprehensive Revision**

After the return of Protestantism under Queen Elizabeth I, the 1559 Prayer Book underwent further revision, resulting in the publication of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. This edition, which remains the official prayer book of the Church of England today, was a comprehensive revision that sought to address the liturgical and doctrinal issues that had arisen over the previous decades.

The 1662 Prayer Book retained the basic structure of the 1549 edition but introduced significant changes, including a revised Communion service, the addition of new prayers, and the inclusion of the Authorized Version of the Bible as the official Scriptural text. It also addressed concerns about Calvinist influences and emphasized the role of tradition and authority in worship.

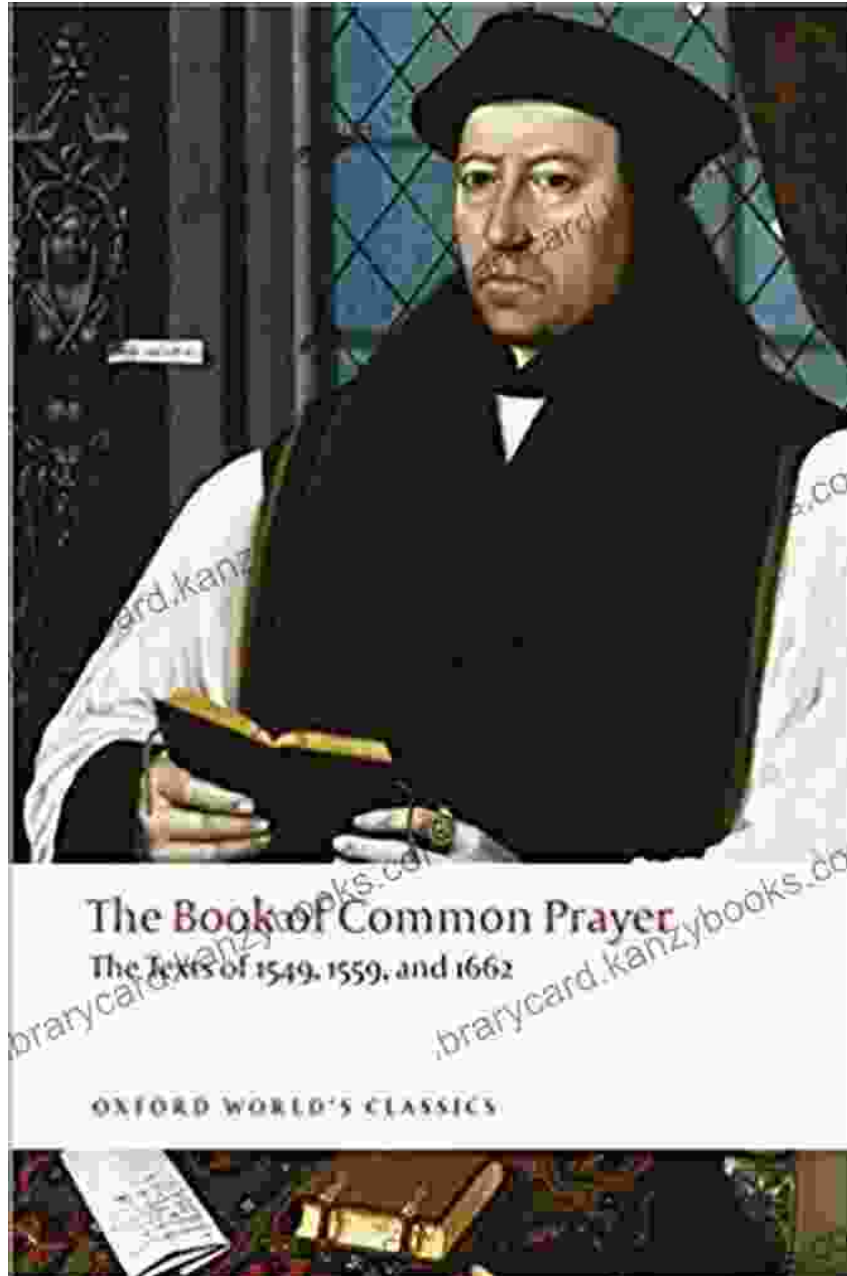


### **The Oxford World Classics Edition**

The Oxford World Classics edition of the Texts of 1549, 1559, and 1662 offers a unique opportunity to explore the evolution of the Book of Common Prayer through the lens of three definitive editions. This comprehensive

volume brings together the full texts of each edition, allowing readers to trace the subtle and profound changes in language, theology, and ritual that shaped the liturgical life of the English church.

Edited by an expert team of scholars, this edition provides invaluable s and annotations that illuminate the historical, theological, and literary significance of each text. Readers will gain a deep understanding of the impact of the Reformation on English society, the enduring legacy of the Book of Common Prayer, and its enduring influence on English language and literature.



The Oxford World Classics edition offers a comprehensive exploration of the evolution of the Book of Common Prayer, featuring full texts, expert s, and annotations.

The Oxford World Classics edition of the Texts of 1549, 1559, and 1662 is an essential resource for students of English literature, history, and religion. It provides a unique opportunity to delve into the rich literary and historical

heritage of the Book of Common Prayer and to appreciate its profound impact on English society and culture.

This volume is a valuable addition to any library and an indispensable companion for anyone interested in understanding the evolution of religious practice, the development of the English language, and the enduring legacy of one of the most influential texts in English history.



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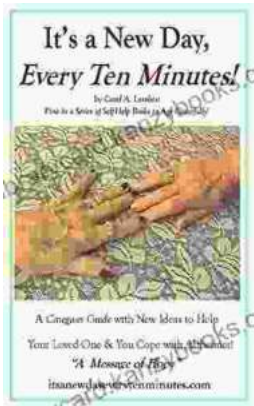
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