

May I learn to love learning, O Lord,
for the world is yours,
and all things in it speak
—each in their way—of you:
 of your mind,
 your designs,
 your artistry,
 your power,
 your unfolding purpose.

All knowledge is your knowledge.
All wisdom your wisdom.

Therefore, as I apply myself to learning,
may I be mindful that all created things
are your creative expression, that all stories
are held within your greater story,
and that all disciplines of order and design
are a chasing after your thoughts—
so that greater mastery of these subjects
will yield ever greater knowledge of the
symmetry and wonder of your ways.

Along this journey,
O Great Architect of Life and Beauty,
bless me with teachers who are passionate
about the subjects they teach,
and with mentors who will take joy
in awakening in me a fierce love for those
parts of your creation and your story
that they have already learned to love well.

As I apply myself even to those subjects
that I might at first find tedious,
reward my efforts with new insights,
fresh inspiration, small epiphanies,
and with the firm conviction that you
are at work in my heart in all circumstances,
not only broadening my knowledge,
but also shaping my heart by patience,

A LITURGY FOR
**Students
& Scholars**

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endurance, and discipline
that I might mature to more fitly and humbly serve the purposes of your great
kingdom.

Give me a deepening knowledge of truth and
a finer discernment of the ideas I encounter
in my studies. Guard my mind always against error, and guard also my heart
against
the temptation to compare my own
performance to the work of my peers,
and so to fall into either of the twin traps
of shame or pride.
Grant instead that I might happily steward
what scholarly gifts you have apportioned me, and that I might do so as means
of preparing myself for service to you and to others,
my identity drawn from your love and
forgiveness, and not from my grades
or accolades here.

Open, O Lord, as you will,
the paths of my life in the days yet to come.
Use my studies to further shape my vision
of what my place and call
in this world might be.
Begin to show me where
my own deep gladness
and the world's deep need might meet.
And in that light, let me be mindful
not only of my studies,
but also mindful of the needs of my peers
and even of my teachers.
Let me respond with mercy
to the failings of others.

Let me be in this school, even in small ways,
a bearer of love and light and reconciliation;
which is to say, let me in humility be your child.

God grant this child discernment and wisdom.
Guard me from error.

God grant this child
knowledge and understanding.
Lead me to truth.
God bless the labors of this new season.
Shape me for your service.

Amen.

GIVE INSTRUCTION
TO A WISE MAN, AND
HE WILL BE STILL WISER;
TEACH A RIGHTEOUS MAN,
AND HE WILL INCREASE
IN LEARNING. THE FEAR
OF THE LORD IS THE
BEGINNING OF WISDOM,
AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF
THE HOLY ONE IS INSIGHT.
PROVERBS 9:9-10

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