

# Daily Prayer

*Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln*

*Wednesday, November 17, 2021*

*We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys—and remember Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200.*

*We begin by saying*

He shall blossom as the lily and strike root as the poplar; his beauty shall be like the olive-trees, and his fragrance like the cedars.

*Cf. Hosea 14.5,6*

## The First Reading

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;

he gave gifts to his people.'

(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the

heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

*Ephesians 4.1-16*

## **The Psalm**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; ♦  
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous.

It goes well with those who are generous in lending ♦  
and order their affairs with justice,

For they will never be shaken; ♦  
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil tidings; ♦  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Their heart is sustained and will not fear, ♦  
until they see the downfall of their foes.

They have given freely to the poor;  
their righteousness stands fast for ever; ♦  
their head will be exalted with honour.

*Psalm 112.4-9*

## The Gospel Reading

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

‘Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.

*Matthew 24.42-47*

*We continue with the reflection that follows. In silence, we ask what the reading has to say to us today. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?*

## The Reflection

*From: For All the Saints*

Today we commemorate Hugh, a twelfth century bishop whose rare holiness and generous love nurtured the people of Lincoln from 1186 until his death fourteen years later.

As a young man Hugh joined the Carthusians, an order of monks who dwelt high in the French Alps. They kept communal life to a minimum and made each monk free to pursue contemplative prayer in solitude and silence.

In 1175 Hugh was sent to head the first Carthusian house in England. His leadership proved so effective that, eleven years later, King Henry II appointed him bishop of Lincoln, then the largest diocese in the kingdom. He reorganized the institutional life of his unwieldy see; he restored Lincoln cathedral, even joining in the work with his own

hands; and he took a leading part in defending the Church against the policies of King Henry and his son, Richard the Lion-Heart.

He did not spend all his time with senior clergy and mighty kings; on the contrary, he was constantly on the move among his people as he sought to keep in touch with their needs. He also took the side of those who were ostracized or oppressed. On two occasions he threw himself into anti-Semitic mobs and singlehandedly rescued their Jewish victims from being murdered. On another occasion he rebuked foolish clerics who said that God disdained to be loved by women. He asked them to think, saying, "To no man was it granted to be called the father of God, but it was given to a woman to be the Mother of God."

As a bishop, Hugh shared the inner freedom he had learned as a Carthusian, and the people responded with gratitude and love. When he died in 1200, his coffin was escorted into Lincoln cathedral not only by kings, archbishops, and abbots, but also by a mighty throng of ordinary women and men — all of whom felt that they were not burying a bishop so much as honouring a friend.

*When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle*

## **The Canticle ~ A Song of the New Creation**

*I will make a way in the wilderness,  
and rivers in the desert.*

'I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦  
the Creator of Israel, your King.'

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦  
a path in the mighty waters,

'Remember not the former things, ♦  
nor consider the things of old.

'Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

'I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert, ♦  
to give drink to my chosen people,

'The people whom I formed for myself, ♦  
that they might declare my praise.'

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*I will make a way in the wilderness,  
and rivers in the desert.*

*Isaiah 43.15,16,18,19,20c,21*

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions)  
and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

## **The Intercessions**

We pray for the flourishing of God's gifts to God's Church, saying:  
Holy One,  
in your mercy hear us.

God our Creator, you give us gifts that we may work together  
in the service of your Son:

bless the leaders of your Church,  
that they may be firm in faith,  
and humble before you.

Holy One,  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who teach,  
that they may increase our understanding,  
and be open to your word for them.

Holy One,  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who minister healing,  
that they may bring wholeness to others,  
yet know your healing in themselves.

Holy One  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those through whom you speak,  
that they may proclaim your word in power,  
yet open their ears to your gentle whisper.

Holy One  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who work in your world today,  
that in the complexity of their daily lives  
they may live for you, fulfil your purposes,  
and seek your kingdom first.

Holy One  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who are uncertain of their gifts  
and those who are powerless in this world's eyes,  
that they may be made strong in your gift of the Holy Spirit.

Holy One  
hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

*Our prayers conclude*

Holy God,  
who endowed Hugh of Lincoln  
with boldness before sovereigns  
and humility in serving his flock,  
grant that we also, rejoicing in your mercy  
and fearing nothing but the loss of you,  
may be bold to speak the truth in love;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen

*We conclude*

Let us pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.  
Amen.





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