

Daily Prayer

Advent Ember Day

Wednesday, December 15, 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.

We begin by saying

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight
in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40.3

The First Reading

But now hear, O Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen!

Thus says the LORD who made you,
who formed you in the womb and will help you:

Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,
and my blessing on your offspring.

They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,
like willows by flowing streams.

This one will say, 'I am the LORD's',
another will be called by the name of Jacob,

yet another will write on the hand, 'The LORD's',
and adopt the name of Israel.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Isaiah 44.1-8

The Psalm

His foundation is on the holy mountains. ♦
The Lord loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Glorious things are spoken of you, ♦
Zion, city of our God.

I record Egypt and Babylon as those who know me; ♦
behold Philistia, Tyre and Ethiopia:
in Zion were they born.

And of Zion it shall be said, 'Each one was born in her, ♦
and the Most High himself has established her.'

The Lord will record as he writes up the peoples, ♦
'This one also was born there.'

And as they dance they shall sing, ♦
'All my fresh springs are in you.'

Psalm 87

The Second Reading

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'
To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do
not believe,
'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner',

And

'A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.'
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were
destined to do.
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the
mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his
marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2.4-10

The Gospel Reading

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17.6-19

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?

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

The Canticle ~ A Song of the Word of the Lord

*Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.*

Seek the Lord while he may be found, ♦
call upon him while he is near;

Let the wicked abandon their ways, ♦
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; ♦
to our God, who will richly pardon.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, ♦
neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.

'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, ♦
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

'As the rain and the snow come down from above, ♦
and return not again but water the earth,

'Bringing forth life and giving growth, ♦
seed for sowing and bread to eat,

'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; ♦
it will not return to me fruitless,

'But it will accomplish that which I purpose, ♦
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

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.

*Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.*

Isaiah 55.6-11

*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

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, saying
Show us your mercy

And grant us your salvation.

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,

Silence is kept

Show us your mercy

And grant us your salvation.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,

Silence is kept

Show us your mercy

And grant us your salvation.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,

Silence is kept

Show us your mercy

And grant us your salvation.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,

Silence is kept

Show us your mercy

And grant us your salvation.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,

Silence is kept

Show us your mercy

And grant us your salvation.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray
to the mercy and protection of maker and redeemer:

Silence is kept

Show us your mercy

And grant us your salvation.

Our prayers conclude

God of joy,

you rejoice in the unity of the Son and the Spirit,
and you take delight in all you have made.

In this Advent season teach us to share in your joy,
that in times of sorrow, as in times of happiness,
we may come to know the reassurances of your promise
and the fulfilment found in coming to be fully alive,
radiant with your glory and charges with your hope,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[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

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us,
scatter the darkness from before our path
and make us ready to meet him when he comes in glory.
Amen.

Credits:

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