

# Daily Prayer

*Feria in Lent*

*Wednesday, March 16, 2022*

*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*

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry;

**hold not your peace at my tears.**

## The First Reading

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, Joab led out the army, ravaged the country of the Ammonites, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Joab attacked Rabbah, and overthrew it. David took the crown of Milcom from his head; he found that it weighed a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone; and it was placed on David's head. He also brought out the booty of the city, a very great amount. He brought out the people who were in it, and set them to work with saws and iron picks and axes. Thus David did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

After this, war broke out with the Philistines at Gezer; then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, who was one of the descendants of the giants; and the Philistines were subdued. Again there was war with the Philistines; and Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of

Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. Again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great size, who had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; he also was descended from the giants. When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. These were descended from the giants in Gath; they fell by the hand of David and his servants.

*2 Chronicles 20.1-22*

## **The Psalm**

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; ♦  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises, ♦  
and tell of all his marvellous works.

Rejoice in the praise of his holy name; ♦  
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord and his strength; ♦  
seek his face continually.

Remember the marvels he has done, ♦  
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

O seed of Abraham his servant, ♦  
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; ♦  
his judgements are in all the earth.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, ♦  
the promise that he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, ♦  
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, ♦  
an everlasting covenant for Israel,  
Saying, 'To you will I give the land of Canaan ♦  
to be the portion of your inheritance.'  
When they were but few in number, ♦  
of little account, and sojourners in the land,  
Wandering from nation to nation, ♦  
from one kingdom to another people,  
He suffered no one to do them wrong ♦  
and rebuked even kings for their sake,  
Saying, 'Touch not my anointed ♦  
and do my prophets no harm.'  
Then he called down famine over the land ♦  
and broke every staff of bread.  
But he had sent a man before them, ♦  
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.  
They shackled his feet with fetters; ♦  
his neck was ringed with iron.  
Until all he foretold came to pass, ♦  
the word of the Lord tested him.  
The king sent and released him; ♦  
the ruler of peoples set him free.  
He appointed him lord of his household ♦  
and ruler of all he possessed,  
To instruct his princes as he willed ♦  
and to teach his counsellors wisdom.

Then Israel came into Egypt; ♦  
    Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.

And the Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; ♦  
    he made them too many for their adversaries,  
Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people ♦  
    and dealt craftily with his servants.

Then sent he Moses his servant ♦  
    and Aaron whom he had chosen.

He showed his signs through their word ♦  
    and his wonders in the land of Ham.

He sent darkness and it grew dark; ♦  
    yet they did not heed his words.

He turned their waters into blood ♦  
    and slew all their fish.

Their land swarmed with frogs, ♦  
    even in their kings' chambers.

He spoke the word, and there came clouds of flies, ♦  
    swarms of gnats within all their borders.

He gave them hailstones for rain ♦  
    and flames of lightning in their land.

He blasted their vines and their fig trees ♦  
    and shattered trees across their country.

He spoke the word, and the grasshoppers came ♦  
    and young locusts without number;

They ate every plant in their land ♦  
    and devoured the fruit of their soil.

He smote all the firstborn in their land, ♦  
the first fruits of all their strength.

Then he brought them out with silver and gold; ♦  
there was not one among their tribes that stumbled.

Egypt was glad at their departing, ♦  
for a dread of them had fallen upon them.

He spread out a cloud for a covering ♦  
and a fire to light up the night.

They asked and he brought them quails; ♦  
he satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out ♦  
and ran in the dry places like a river.

For he remembered his holy word ♦  
and Abraham, his servant.

*Psalm 105.1-42*

## **The Gospel Reading**

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, 'Lord, will only a few be saved?' He said to them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us", then in reply he will say to you, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets." But he will say, "I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!" There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the

kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'

*Luke 13.22-31*

*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**

*Katy Waugh*

*Seek the Lord and his strength  
Seek his presence continually  
Psalm 105*

Seeking to find God's presence is a life-long journey. When things are going well, it is easy to sing prayers of thanksgiving. In times of imminent danger, it comes naturally to call on God to help or save us. But, how to seek God in the midst of the current horror in Ukraine, which unfolds twenty-four hours a day on our screens, seems to present a new kind of challenge. It overwhelms us to see the devastation, the misery being foisted upon innocent human beings of all ages, as they struggle just to stay alive. Others bravely fight the looming destruction which seems to come nearer minute by minute. Someone asked me where God was in all of this.

My answer is this. God is weeping and hoping that we humans can come to our senses and see the broader vision which sees the commonality of all of us. Naive? Maybe but I prefer to call it faithful. I will always choose hope over hate and gloom. Praying is the means to accessing God's strength, vision and love. And, if I find I can not find the words, I turn to the prayers of Nan Merrill's psalms,

Walter Brueggemann's wisdom ,and the much loved poetry of Mary Oliver.

These prayerful words by Walter Brueggemann, an eminent Old Testament theologian have become my morning mantra as I sit in the quiet before being inundated by bad news.

“ Teach us how to weep while we wait,  
and how to hope while we weep,  
and how to care while we hope.”

Weeping, hoping and caring helps us to tap into God's strength.

And, using the resources that inspire us to deeper thought, deeper breathing and broader vision are the well from which we can draw. The other night, I joined the Sunday evening Taize service Praying for Peace and I found myself weeping, no, more like sobbing, as Dan played the very familiar Taize hymn Ubi Caritas. This antiphon which is often heard during the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday, was exactly what I needed to hear. It brought God closer to me. It proclaims so simply that where charity and love are found, God is there. Joining with others to sing this tune united me with the millions of others who have come together to pray in so many other times and places. When it was over and candles were being lighted in our beautiful sanctuary, I found for the first time in eons that I was breathing more deeply. My sense of hope had been rekindled at least to a flickering fire and I knew I would sleep better than in the past.

In this season of Lent, these forty days when we walk in the wilderness with Jesus, find your muses, your resources, that can help you reset your compass. Try googling Taize music or pick a few key phrases from familiar hymns or psalms. Or start off as I do by saying this prayer.

'Teach us how to weep while we wait,  
and how to hope while we weep,  
and how to care while we hope.'

Walter Brueggemann's book of prayers called Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth.

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

## **The Canticle ~ A Song of Peace**

*Spirit of God, teach us your ways,  
that we may walk in the paths of peace.*

Come, let us go up to the mountain of God, ♦  
to the house of the God of Jacob;

That God may teach us his ways, ♦  
and that we may walk in his paths.

For the law shall go out from Zion, ♦  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

God shall judge between the nations, ♦  
and shall mediate for many peoples.

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, ♦  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, ♦  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O people of Jacob, come: ♦  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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.

*Spirit of God, teach us your ways,  
that we may walk in the paths of peace.*

*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**

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those preparing for baptism, for our catechumens and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Our prayers conclude*

Lord, your Son said to his disciples,  
'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you'.  
Grant, we pray, that we may be so filled with this gift  
that we become people of peace in a world of violence.  
Teach the leaders of the nations to pursue peace with one another,  
show us all the value of those different from ourselves  
and draw us together into one family of peace, as your children in  
the world,  
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*

This is love, not that we loved God.  
**But that he loved us and sent his Son.**  
He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
**that we might live through him.**  
If God loves us so much  
**we ought to love one another.**  
If we love one another  
**God lives in us.**



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