

# Daily Prayer

*Justin, Martyr at Rome*

*Wednesday, June 1, 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 and remember Justin, Martyr at Rome and Teacher of the Faith, c 167.*

*We begin by saying*

O Lord, open our lips.

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us

**and clothe us with power from on high, Alleluia.**

## The First Reading

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*1 Corinthians 1.18-25*

## The Psalm

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; ♦  
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; ♦  
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦  
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

Take me out of the net  
that they have laid secretly for me, ♦  
for you are my strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

*Psalm 31.1-5*

## The Gospel Reading

Then Jesus cried aloud: 'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.'

*John 12.44-50*

*In silence, we ask what the readings have to say to us today. Is there something that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?*

## **Justin Martyr, Teacher of the Faith**

Today we honour the memory of Justin, a Christian teacher who was martyred at Rome around the year 167.

Born in Palestine, Justin received the finest education that money could buy and was steeped in Greek culture. But his mind thirsted for something more, so he began a search for the true philosophy. In his quest, he passed through a variety of teachers and sects before he settled on Platonism, a pagan system of thought which seemed to promise him mystical union with the source of all existence.

Justin was satisfied with Platonic teaching until one day, quite by chance, he encountered a mysterious old man. In the discussion which followed, this stranger showed Justin the contradictions of his philosophy. Greatly impressed with the old man's wisdom, Justin asked him how he had come by it. In response, the stranger told him about the prophets and apostles who, "far above all logical demonstration, were worthy witnesses to the truth." The old man who spoke these words proved to be a Christian, and his testimony convinced Justin that Christianity was "the only sure and profitable philosophy."

After his baptism Justin continued to wear the garb of a philosopher and made his living by teaching "the Christian philosophy" to anyone who wished to study with him. He also made a name for himself by challenging pagan philosophers to public debates and by writing several treatises in defense of the Christian religion.

At some point — it is unknown just when — Justin moved to Rome. There he continued his work as a teacher and public advocate of Christianity. Around the year 167 he held a disputation with a

pagan philosopher, whose supporters revenged his defeat by denouncing Justin to the authorities. He and his students were brought before the chief magistrate of Rome and interrogated. All stood firm for the Christian faith, and the magistrate condemned them to summary execution. Thus, like the prophets of old, Justin proved to be “a worthy witness to the truth,” even at the cost of his life.

*From For All the Saints*

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

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

The Spirit of God fills the whole world.

I will take you from the nations, ♦  
and gather you from all the countries.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, ♦  
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.

A new heart I will give you, ♦  
and put a new spirit within you,

And I will remove from your body the heart of stone ♦  
and give you a heart of flesh.

You shall be my people, ♦  
and I will be your God.

*Ezekiel 36.24-26, 28b*

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.

The Spirit of God fills the whole world.

*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 God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God,

we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

Lord, come to bless us

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, come to bless us

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, come to bless us

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

Lord, come to bless us

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit,  
given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,  
in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God,

you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,  
and upon the disciples in the upper room:

in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,

hear our prayer,

and make us one in heart and mind

to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

*Our prayers conclude*

Almighty God,

you found your servant Justin

seeking the path of true wisdom

and made him a worthy witness

to the truth of your eternal Word.

Guide those who are wearied in their quest for peace

to the fount and spring of your mercy,

that their sorrows and doubts may be washed away

in the joy of knowing your Son Jesus Christ;

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*

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.

**Amen.**



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