Daily Prayer

Eastertide

Wednesday, May 25, 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 Lord, open our lips.

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

let heaven and earth rejoice, Alleluia.

The First Reading

Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the

boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said.

"For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. When they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them. 'Your blood be

on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.' Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshipper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized.

Acts 17.15, 22-18.8

The Psalm

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; • praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels; ◆ praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; ◆ praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, heaven of heavens, ◆ and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, ◆ for he commanded and they were created.

He made them fast for ever and ever; ◆
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ◆ you sea monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and mist, ◆ tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills, ◆
fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle, ◆
creeping things and birds on the wing;

Kings of the earth and all peoples, ◆ princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and women,
old and young together; ◆
let them praise the name of the Lord.

For his name only is exalted, ♦ his splendour above earth and heaven.

He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, ◆ the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

Psalm 148

The Gospel Reading

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me.' Then some of his disciples said to one another, 'What does he mean by saying to us, "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me"; and "Because I am going to the Father"?' They said, 'What does he mean by this "a little while"? We do not know what he is talking

about.' Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, 'Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me"? Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.

John 16.12-20

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

The Canticle ~ The Benedictus

They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as an eagle. Alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦ who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ◆ born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old ◆
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦ and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ◆ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \understart
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ◆ for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation ◆ by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God ◆
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

Luke 1.68-79

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.

They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as an eagle. Alleluia.

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

With faith and love and in union with Christ, let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace. Have mercy on your people, for whom your Son laid down his life:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations, and have pity on those torn apart by division:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake, and deliver them from evil:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Look in mercy upon all who suffer, and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring comfort to the dying, and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Give rest to the departed and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died, to the mercy and protection of God.

Amen.

Our prayers conclude

Lord, you have taught us that perfect love casts out fear, and yet the news we hear every day gives us cause to be alarmed. Help us all, in our weakness and fragility, to entrust our lives to your care, and share with us the burden of our anxieties, that we may experience the joy of that fullness of life for which we have been created, redeemed and sanctified, in 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

May Christ our Saviour give us peace. **Amen.**

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