

# Daily Prayer

*Alban, First Martyr in Britain*

*Wednesday, June 22, 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.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord.

**and teach me your paths.**

## The First Reading

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,  
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,  
and their going from us to be their destruction;  
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,  
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,  
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;  
like gold in the furnace he tried them,  
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,  
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples,

and the Lord will reign over them for ever.  
Those who trust in him will understand truth,  
and the faithful will abide with him in love,  
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,  
and he watches over his elect.

*Wisdom 3.1-9*

## **The Psalm**

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; ♦  
my soul is athirst for you.

My flesh also faints for you, ♦  
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, ♦  
that I might behold your power and your glory.

Your loving-kindness is better than life itself ♦  
and so my lips shall praise you.

I will bless you as long as I live ♦  
and lift up my hands in your name.

My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness, ♦  
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed ♦  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

For you have been my helper ♦  
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; ♦  
your right hand shall hold me fast.

*Psalm 63.1-8*

## The Gospel Reading

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

*Matthew 10.40-42*

*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 ~ A Song of the Lord's Anointed

The Lord has anointed me  
and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ♦  
because he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, ♦  
to bind up the broken-hearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives, ♦  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, ♦  
to comfort all who mourn,

To give them a garland instead of ashes, ♦  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit,

That they may be called oaks of righteousness, ♦  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

For as the earth puts forth her blossom, ♦  
and as seeds in the garden spring up,

So shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise ♦  
blossom before all the nations.

You shall be called priests of the Lord; ♦  
they shall speak of you as ministers of our God.

*Isaiah 61.1-3,11,6a*

*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 Lord has anointed me  
and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.*

*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*

Almighty God,  
you conferred on your holy martyr Alban  
such love for the mercy of Christ  
that he gave his life to save a hunted Christian.  
Grant us, after his example,  
to be so faithful in our confession of your gospel  
that we may shelter those who flee from persecution  
and bear the reproaches which threaten their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
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.**

# Alban

*First Martyr in Britain, c. 209 — Memorial*

Alban was a soldier in one of the Roman legions which guarded the province of Britannia early in the third century. This legion's camp was at Veru-la'-mium, to the north of London. Though a pagan, Alban gave shelter to a Christian priest who was fleeing persecution. When he observed the priest doing his prayers, he was moved to question him about the Church's faith. The priest's replies led Alban to accept Christ as his only Lord and Saviour.

In the meantime, reports that the priest was hiding with Alban reached the authorities. Soldiers were sent to seize the priest. When the detail reached his dwelling, Alban met them at the doorway. He was wearing his guest's cloak, the customary garb of a Christian priest, and presented himself to the soldiers as the man they were looking for. Taken before the military governor, who discovered the ruse, Alban refused to offer the pagan sacrifices required by law. He was condemned to death and beheaded that same day. Alban's martyrdom is considered to have been his baptism.

From *For All the Saints*

Credits:

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