

Daily Prayer

Laurence

Wednesday, August 10, 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 remember Laurence, deacon and martyr, Rome—258

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

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Colossians 1.24-29

The Psalm

As for me, I am poor and in misery; ♦
your saving help, O God, will lift me up.

I will praise the name of God with a song; ♦
I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.

This will please the Lord more than an offering of oxen, ♦
more than bulls with horns and hooves.

The humble shall see and be glad; ♦
you who seek God, your heart shall live.

For the Lord listens to the needy, ♦
and his own who are imprisoned he does not despise.

Let the heavens and the earth praise him, ♦
the seas and all that moves in them;

Psalm 69.31-36

The Gospel Reading

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Mark 8.34-38

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 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.'

Isaiah 55.6-11

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.

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

That this and all our days
may be full of your praise:

we pray to you, O Lord.

That you will keep us this day without sin:

we pray to you, O Lord.

That we may walk before you
in the paths of righteousness and peace:

we pray to you, O Lord.

That you will bless your people
and lift them up for ever:

we pray to you, O Lord.

That you will guide and protect us by your Holy Spirit
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting:

we pray to you, O Lord.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Our prayers conclude

Almighty God,
you called your holy deacon Laurence
to minister the riches of Christ,
and for the sake of Christ's name
gladly to pour forth his life.
Grant to us who keep his feast
such faithfulness in our service to one another
and such joy in bearing witness to you,
that the world may be stirred to open its heart
and attend to your word of salvation;
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.

Laurence

Deacon and Martyr at Rome, 258—Memorial

August

Today we honour Laurence, a deacon of the Roman church who was martyred in the middle of the third century. As a deacon, he assisted the bishop at the eucharist by reading the gospel and administering the cup. Laurence also had charge over the wealth of his church, to see that it was used for the relief of the poor and the needy. On August 6th in the year 258, during renewed persecution of the Church, he was arrested with his bishop and several other deacons. Later that same day, all of them were beheaded, except Laurence. The pagan magistrate knew that Laurence kept his church's money and ordered him to hand it over. The deacon asked for three days' grace, and on August 10th he came to the magistrate and led him out into the courtyard. The yard was filled with beggars, widows, lepers, cripples and the mentally ill. "Here," Laurence said, "*this* is the Church's wealth!" Enraged by such daring, the magistrate had him executed at once. Early in the fifth century, Augustine of Hippo summarized the meaning of his example in this way: "Laurence ministered the blood of Christ to the faithful, and for the sake of Christ's name he poured out his own."

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