

Daily Prayer

Henry, Missionary Bishop

Wednesday, July 13, 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

For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day.

1 Corinthians 4.9-13

The Psalm

Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦
tell out his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations ♦
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦
he is more to be feared than all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him; ♦
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 96

The Gospel Reading

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

Mark 4.30-32

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,
teach us to follow
the example of your servant Henry,
that we may proclaim your gospel,
rebuke injustice,
and bear whatever reproaches
the world shall heap upon our faithfulness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives 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.

Henry

Missionary Bishop in Finland. 1156—Commemoration

Today we remember Henry, a twelfth-century Englishman who is honoured as the apostle and patron saint of Finland. In 1152 the Pope sent a mission to Norway and Sweden, and Henry went as one of its chaplains. The papal legate ordained him bishop of Uppsala and charged him with supervising the reform of the Swedish Church. Two years later Henry accompanied the Swedes on a crusade against the pagan tribes in southern Finland, and he decided to stay there after the Swedish forces withdrew. Alone except for an interpreter, he journeyed from village to village, proclaiming the gospel at market-day gatherings and baptizing large numbers of people. But his work was suddenly cut short in mid-January of 1156, after he excommunicated a Finnish convert for committing a violent crime. Seeking revenge, the convert caught up with Henry while he was crossing a frozen lake and murdered him with an axe-blow to the head.

Other missionaries came in Henry's wake, and though they experienced many setbacks in their work, the Finnish people eventually became a Christian nation. The triumph of Henry's mission was celebrated in 1300, when his remains were moved from their original tomb to a magnificent shrine in the Finnish national cathedral at Abo.

From *For All the Saints*

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