

# Daily Prayer

*Aidan*

*Wednesday, August 31, 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 Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne—651.*

*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

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all

things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

*1 Corinthians 9.16-23*

## **The Psalm**

Lord, you were gracious to your land; ♦  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the offence of your people ♦  
and covered all their sins.

You laid aside all your fury ♦  
and turned from your wrathful indignation.

Restore us again, O God our Saviour, ♦  
and let your anger cease from us.

Will you be displeased with us for ever? ♦  
Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to  
another?

Will you not give us life again, ♦  
that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your mercy, O Lord, ♦  
and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what the Lord God will say, ♦  
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the  
faithful,  
that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, ♦  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together, ♦  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦  
and righteousness look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, ♦  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him ♦  
and direct his steps in the way.

*Psalm 85.8-13*

## **The Gospel Reading**

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

*Matthew 19.27-30*

*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 ~ Benedictus**

You did not choose me but I chose you  
and I appointed you to go out and bear fruit,  
fruit that shall last.

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, ♦  
*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,*

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of  
death, ♦  
*and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

*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.*

You did not choose me but I chose you  
and I appointed you to go out and bear fruit,  
fruit that shall last.

*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*

Loving God,  
who made your servant Aidan  
a wanderer among the English  
that he might bring them home to your kingdom,  
grant us, after his example, to walk so faithfully  
along the pathways of this life,  
that in all our converse with others  
we may commend the saving gospel  
of 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.**

# Aidan

*Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651 — Commemoration*

Aidan was an Irish monk who restored Christianity in the war-ravaged kingdom of Northumbria early in the seventh century.

In the year 631 pagan invaders wrecked all the churches in this kingdom, which covered much of northeastern England. Its king asked the Irish monks at Iona for help in restoring Christianity among his people. First they sent a bishop who regarded his Anglo-Saxon flock as obstinate and uncivilized; he soon became disgruntled and returned to Iona. Then the monks chose Aidan, had him consecrated bishop, and sent him to Northumbria.

Aidan established a monastery on an island called Lindisfarne. This allowed him to come and go among the people as he wished. As the Venerable Bede later said of him: "Aidan used to travel everywhere on foot ... in order that, as he walked along, whenever he saw people, whether rich or poor, he might at once approach them and, if they were unbelievers, invite them to accept the mystery of the faith; or, if they were believers, that he might strengthen them in the faith, urging them by word and deed to practise almsgiving and good works." As he journeyed, Aidan founded monasteries and saw to the building of churches; he taught the people how to use fasting and meditation on the Scriptures to strengthen their faith; and he obtained freedom for children who were held as slaves. Finally, because of his obvious holiness and care for the poor, he was able to bear effective witness against the rich and powerful when they exploited or oppressed their neighbours.

Aidan spent just over a decade in mission-work, then retired from Lindisfarne to a much smaller island nearby in order to give himself

entirely to prayer and contemplation. There he died in the year 651,  
beloved by God and by the people of Northumbria.

Credits:

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Biographical information: For All the Saints © 2007, General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada

# Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

416.922.4948

[office@theredeemer.ca](mailto:office@theredeemer.ca)

[www.TheRedeemer.ca](http://www.TheRedeemer.ca)

Twitter: @theRedeemerTO

Facebook: theRedeemerTO

Instagram: theRedeemerTO