

Daily Prayer

Clement, Bishop of Rome

Wednesday, November 23, 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—and we remember Clement, Bishop of Rome, c100 .

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

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck

the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other,
and Elisha went over.

2 Kings 2.9-14

The Psalm

Hear my teaching, O my people; ♦
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; ♦
I will pour forth mysteries from of old,

Such as we have heard and known, ♦
which our forebears have told us.

We will not hide from their children,
but will recount to generations to come, ♦
the praises of the Lord and his power
and the wonderful works he has done.

He laid a solemn charge on Jacob
and made it a law in Israel, ♦
which he commanded them to teach their children,

That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn, ♦
that they in turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God ♦
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments,

Psalm 78.1-7

The Gospel Reading

'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

He also told them a parable: 'Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye.'

'No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.'

Luke 6.37-45

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 ~ Te Deum Laudamus—A Song of the Church

We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as the Lord;

all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:

Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you took our flesh to set us free
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

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.

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God and
continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

The Intercessions

Let us pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

Jesus, bread from heaven,
you satisfy the hungry with good things:
grant us a share with all the faithful departed
in the banquet of your kingdom.
Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, the light of the world,
you gave the man born blind the gift of sight:
open the eye of faith
and bring us from darkness
to your eternal light and glory.
Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, Son of the living God,
you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life:
raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.
Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, crucified Saviour,
in your dying you entrusted each to the other,
Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple:
sustain and comfort all who mourn.
Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, our way and truth and life,
you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith:
reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.
Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

May God in his infinite love and mercy
bring the whole Church,
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,
to a joyful resurrection
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.
Amen.

Our prayers conclude

O God,
you chose your servant Clement of Rome
to recall the church of Corinth
to peace in the body of Christ.
By the power of your Holy Spirit
dwelling in the Body of your Son,
reveal what is not yet known,
confirm what you have already revealed,
and keep us blameless in our service of your truth;
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.

Clement

Bishop of Rome, c 100—Commemoration

Today we honour Clement of Rome, who flourished at the dawn of the Church's history and is known to us as the author of a pastoral letter written around the year 96.

He seems to have been a slave who adopted the name of his former master, Clemens, in gratitude for being granted his freedom. We do not know how or when he became a Christian, and though it is clear he rose to a position of leadership in the Roman church, we cannot be sure what office he held or what role he performed. One tradition lists him as the third bishop of Rome after St. Peter and says that he reigned between the years 90 and 100. But other evidence suggests that the church in first-century Rome was governed by a council of presbyters, not by a single bishop. In that case, Clement may have been the president of this council or simply the presbyter who acted as minister for relations with other churches.

Whatever his office, he wrote a pastoral letter to the church at Corinth after a group of its junior clergy had convinced the rest of their community to depose its ruling council of presbyters. Clement wrote on behalf of the Roman church and castigated the rebels for their pride, then rebuked the entire community for letting partisan strife go so far. His argument does not follow a straight line, but instead presents a round of variations on the theme of pride and true humility, self-will and Christian obedience. He concluded with this advice:

Is there anyone among you who has a noble mind, who is compassionate, who overflows with love? Let such a person say: "If I am the cause of any disorder, friction, or division among you, I will remove myself. I will go away, anywhere

you wish, and I will do anything the congregation says — only let there be peace between Christ's flock and their appointed presbyters." Anyone who does this will earn a great name in Christ and be sure of a welcome anywhere, because "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

Credits:

Scripture quotations: The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved.

The Psalm: Common Worship: Psalter © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Canticle: Common Worship: Canticles © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Intercessions: Common Worship: Daily Prayer © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Collect: For All the Saints © 2007, General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada

The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: Daily Prayer © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

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

www.TheRedeemer.ca

Twitter: @theRedeemerTO

Facebook: theRedeemerTO

Instagram: theRedeemerTO