

Daily Prayer

Alfred the Great

Wednesday, October 26, 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 remember Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons 899

We begin by saying

O God, makes 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

Listen therefore, O kings, and understand;

learn, O judges of the ends of the earth.

Give ear, you that rule over multitudes,
and boast of many nations.

For your dominion was given you from the Lord,

and your sovereignty from the Most High;

he will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

To you then, O monarchs, my words are directed,

so that you may learn wisdom and not transgress.

For they will be made holy who observe holy things in holiness,

and those who have been taught them will find a defence.

Therefore set your desire on my words;

long for them, and you will be instructed.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
The multitude of the wise is the salvation of the world,
and a sensible king is the stability of any people.
Therefore be instructed by my words, and you will profit.

Wisdom 6.1-3, 9-12, 24-25

The Psalm

The king shall rejoice in your strength, O Lord; ♦
how greatly shall he rejoice in your salvation!

You have given him his heart's desire ♦
and have not denied the request of his lips.

For you come to meet him with blessings of goodness ♦
and set a crown of pure gold upon his head.

He asked of you life and you gave it him, ♦
length of days, for ever and ever. [R]

His honour is great because of your salvation; ♦
glory and majesty have you laid upon him.

You have granted him everlasting felicity ♦
and will make him glad with joy in your presence.

For the king puts his trust in the Lord; ♦
because of the loving-kindness of the Most High,
he shall not be overthrown.

Psalm 21.1-7

The Gospel Reading

'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.

'Why do you call me "Lord, Lord", and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.'

Luke 6.43-49

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 ~ Jubilate—A Song of Joy

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; ♦
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God; ♦
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise; ♦
give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, ♦
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Psalm 100

*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 (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

Sovereign Lord,
you strengthened the arm of your servant Alfred
to restore in his ravaged kingdom
the knowledge of peace and the love of learning.
Make us eager to increase our understanding
while we are in this world,
and give us a fervent longing to reach that endless life
where all shall be made clear;
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.

Alfred the Great

Commemoration

Alfred the Great is a hero of English history because of his military and political victories — and a hero of the Church because of his efforts to build a truly Christian nation.

In 871, at the age of twenty-two, he became the king of the West Saxons and was immediately caught in a desperate seven-year struggle against the Danes who had overrun all the rest of England. The West Saxons emerged victorious, and Alfred spent the next twenty years of his life and reign struggling to win the peace. He sought to reconstruct the political life and institutions of his kingdom — and more, to bring about a renaissance of Anglo-Saxon Christianity. He organized a system of national education and personally supervised the translation of many Latin writings into Anglo-Saxon, in order to meet his people's growing literacy. Alfred the Great was, in short, the pattern of a Christian king, one whose prowess in war was matched and finally overshadowed by his wisdom in the works of peace.

Credits:

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