

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, December 14, 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 Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

that we may behold your power and glory.

The First Reading

I am the LORD, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

Shower, O heavens, from above,

and let the skies rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,

and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;

I the LORD have created it.

For thus says the LORD,
who created the heavens
 (he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
 (he established it;
he did not create it a chaos,
 he formed it to be inhabited!):
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
I did not speak in secret,
 in a land of darkness;
I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,
 ‘Seek me in chaos.’
I the LORD speak the truth,
 I declare what is right.

Assemble yourselves and come together,
 draw near, you survivors of the nations!
They have no knowledge—
 those who carry about their wooden idols,
and keep on praying to a god
 that cannot save.

Declare and present your case;
 let them take counsel together!

Who told this long ago?
 Who declared it of old?

Was it not I, the LORD?
 There is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Saviour;
 there is no one besides me.

Turn to me and be saved,
 all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.

By myself I have sworn,
from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness
a word that shall not return:
'To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear.'

Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength;
all who were incensed against him
shall come to him and be ashamed.
In the LORD all the offspring of Israel
shall triumph and glory.

Isaiah 45.5-8, 18-25

The Psalm

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

When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, 'I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.' When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen among us!' and 'God has looked favourably on his people!' This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' When the men had come to him, they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ' Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

Luke 7.9-23

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 Wilderness

Lift up your voice with strength,
O herald of good tidings.

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, ♦
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, ♦
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands, ♦
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,
your God is coming with judgement, ♦
coming with judgement to save you.'

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, ♦
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

Then shall the lame leap like a hart, ♦
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, ♦
and streams in the desert;

The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, ♦
with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Joy and gladness shall be theirs, ♦
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35.1,2b-4a,4c-6,10

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.

Lift up your voice with strength,
O herald of good tidings.

*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

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,
restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:
Almighty God,
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ
first came to seek and to save the lost;
so may he come again to find in us
the completion of his redeeming work;
for he is now alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our prayers conclude

God of glory,
whose Son looked on the brokenness of this world in love,
and in his mercy came to bring us healing and peace,
grant us grace to long for his coming again,
that our hearts would be opened by his compassion,
and our world would be reconciled by his inspiration,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

[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 the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

Amen.

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