

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, December 21, 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

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;

you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Zephaniah 3.14-18a

The Psalm

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, ♦
for it is good for the just to sing praises.

Praise the Lord with the lyre; ♦
on the ten-stringed harp sing his praise.

Sing for him a new song; ♦
play skilfully, with shouts of praise.

For the word of the Lord is true ♦
and all his works are sure.

He loves righteousness and justice; ♦
the earth is full of the loving-kindness of the Lord.

Our soul waits longingly for the Lord; ♦
he is our help and our shield.

Indeed, our heart rejoices in him; ♦
in his holy name have we put our trust.

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, ♦
as we have set our hope on you.

Psalm 33.1-5, 20-22

The Gospel Reading

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child

leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Luke 1.39-45

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 ~ Magnificat—A Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦

he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm ♦
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦
and lifting up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things ♦
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦
to remember his promise of mercy,

The promise made to our ancestors, ♦
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

*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

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:

Silence is kept.

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

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the morning star that scatters the darkness
from before your path;
bring to light, we pray,
all that will lead us in ways of truth.
Where we deceive ourselves,
show us the reality of our characters and circumstances
where we deceive others,
renew our consciences to speak with honesty and compassion;

where we are deceived about you,
show us the reality of your love and your will for our lives;
for the sake of your glorious name,
O 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 Christ our Saviour give us peace.
Amen.

Credits:

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