

# Daily Prayer

## *Ash Wednesday*

*Wednesday, February 22, 2023*

*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 God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry;

**hold not your peace at my tears.**

## **The First Reading**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

    for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

a day of darkness and gloom,

    a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains

    a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

    nor will be again after them

    in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,

    return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

    rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain-offering and a drink-offering  
for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,  
"Where is their God?" '

*Joel 2.1-2, 12-17*

## The Psalm

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦  
according to the abundance of your compassion  
blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults ♦  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned ♦  
and done what is evil in your sight,

So that you are justified in your sentence ♦  
and righteous in your judgement.

I have been wicked even from my birth, ♦  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire truth deep within me ♦  
and shall make me understand wisdom  
in the depths of my heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; ♦  
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, ♦  
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Turn your face from my sins ♦  
and blot out all my misdeeds.

*Psalm 51.1-10*

## The Gospel Reading

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21*

*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—The Song of Zechariah

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.

*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**

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.  
For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ...  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church,  
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel  
to the ends of the earth,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For those preparing for baptism [and confirmation] ...  
and for their teachers and sponsors,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world ...  
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow  
among nations and peoples,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ...  
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;  
that they may be relieved and protected,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

For those whom we have injured or offended,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of  
holiness ...

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

God our Father,

in your love and goodness

you have taught us to come close to you in penitence

with prayer, fasting and generosity;

accept our Lenten discipline,

and when we fall by our weakness,

raise us up by your unfailing mercy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Our prayers conclude*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of 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 God bless us and show us compassion and mercy  
**Amen.**





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