

Daily Prayer

Thomas Ken

Wednesday, March 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—and remember Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1711.

We begin by saying

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love;

according to your judgement give us life.

The First Reading

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.'

Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

2 Samuel 12.1-9a

The Psalm

The Lord is gracious and merciful, ♦
long-suffering and of great goodness.

The Lord is loving to everyone ♦
and his mercy is over all his creatures.

All your works praise you, O Lord, ♦
and your faithful servants bless you.

They tell of the glory of your kingdom ♦
and speak of your mighty power,

To make known to all peoples your mighty acts ♦
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; ♦
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

The Lord is sure in all his words ♦
and faithful in all his deeds.

The Lord upholds all those who fall ♦
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

Psalm 145.8-15

The Gospel Reading

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6.20-31

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 Word of the Lord

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, ♦
call upon him while he is near;

Let the wicked abandon their ways, ♦
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; ♦
to our God, who will richly pardon.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, ♦
neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.

'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, ♦
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

'As the rain and the snow come down from above, ♦
and return not again but water the earth,

'Bringing forth life and giving growth, ♦
seed for sowing and bread to eat,

'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; ♦
it will not return to me fruitless,

'But it will accomplish that which I purpose, ♦
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

Isaiah 55.6-11

*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.*

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.

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 God,
we bless you for your servant Thomas Ken
who offered to you his unceasing prayer,
to the poor his compassion and wealth,

and to his Church and nation
the witness of a steadfast conscience.
Grant us so to rejoice in his holy example
that we may have courage to rebuke the sins of our age
and grace to provide for the outcast in their need;
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 God bless us and show us compassion and mercy
Amen.

Thomas Ken

Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1711 — Commemoration

Today we remember Thomas Ken, a spiritual leader in the seventeenth-century Church of England, who became bishop of Bath and Wells and suffered both deprivation and ostracism because he chose conscience over political expedience. Ordained priest in 1662, he spent most of the next twenty years in the diocese of Winchester. He served two times as pastor in the slum of St John's in the Soke, where his earnest care for the whole life of his parishioners, physical as well as spiritual, brought many who had been abandoned by the Church back to the life of prayer and sacraments. In 1685 he was appointed to the see of Bath and Wells, where he took special care to issue booklets designed to help the widest number of his flock in forming a daily discipline of prayer and Christian action. He also gave a living example — as his first biographer wrote, "When he was at home on Sundays he would have twelve poor men or women to dine with him in his hall, always endeavouring while he fed their bodies to comfort their spirits by some cheerful discourse. . . . And when they had dined, the remainder was divided among them to carry home to their families." Ken had only three years in this ministry before the Revolution of 1688 overtook him. He joined six other bishops in refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the new regime. When Parliament passed an Act depriving them of their jurisdictions, Ken and the others refused to resign their canonical titles — thus creating a schism in the Church of England. He himself did nothing to further the schism, but spent the last twenty-one years of his life in retirement. Just before his death he sought to do what he could to heal the breach of unity: he renounced his claims upon the see of Bath and Wells, and once again received communion in the established Church of England. Thus, the final act of his life was for the welfare and peace of the Church he loved.

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: Times and Seasons—Lent © 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