

Daily Prayer

Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln

Wednesday, March 8, 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 Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln.

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

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Ezekiel 34.11-16

The Psalm

Alleluia.

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, ♦
in the company of the faithful and in the congregation.

The works of the Lord are great, ♦
sought out by all who delight in them.

His work is full of majesty and honour ♦
and his righteousness endures for ever.

He appointed a memorial for his marvellous deeds; ♦
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; ♦
holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
a good understanding have those who live by it; ♦
his praise endures for ever.

Psalm 111.1-4, 9-10

The Gospel Reading

Jesus said, 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

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

O God, the everlasting Shepherd,
whose servant Edward King
cared for your people
with surpassing tenderness and love,
grant us so to practise the love
that you have poured into our hearts,
that we may nurture one another
in the works of your truth and justice;
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.

David King

Bishop of Lincoln, Educator and Pastor, 1910 — Commemoration

Today we celebrate the ministry of Edward King, a pastor, educator, and bishop in the Church of England who died in 1910.

King spent most of his priesthood teaching in institutions of higher learning. For fifteen years he worked at Cuddesdon College, one of the first places in the Anglican communion to offer professional training to those who were called to holy orders. He then moved to Oxford, where he taught pastoral theology and came to have great personal influence among the undergraduates of the University.

In 1885 King was appointed bishop of Lincoln, where he remained until his death twenty-five years later. During these years the Church of England went through one of the worst periods of partisan strife in its history. King gave his allegiance to the Anglo-catholic movement and believed that all of human life was open to conversion through vigilant prayer and celebration of the eucharist. But he had little interest in ritual and always conformed to the customs of the parish he was visiting — whatever they might be, “low” or “high.” So it was ironic that he became the only English bishop to be charged under an Act of Parliament which outlawed Anglo-catholic ritual customs. A long trial ensued, which resulted in a judgement substantially in King’s favour.

Throughout his trial King had the complete support of his people, for his personal holiness and sensitivity as a pastor had won him the affection and loyalty of all parties within his rural diocese. This remained true to the end of his life. Clergy, children presented for confirmation, mourning parents, and those under sentence of death in Lincoln gaol — all found him approachable, willing to share in their concerns and joys, and to help them deepen their spiritual lives.

Credits:

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