

Daily Prayer

Easter Feria

Wednesday, April 19, 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 Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving power among the nations.

The First Reading

Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.' When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching.

When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the temple police went there, they did not find them in the prison; so they returned and reported, 'We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside.' Now when the captain of the temple and the

chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what might be going on. Then someone arrived and announced, 'Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!' Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. *Acts 5.17-26*

The Psalm

I will bless the Lord at all times; ♦

his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

My soul shall glory in the Lord; ♦

let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me; ♦

let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord and he answered me ♦

and delivered me from all my fears.

Look upon him and be radiant ♦

and your faces shall not be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me ♦

and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him ♦

and delivers them.

O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; ♦

blessed is the one who trusts in him.

Psalm 34.1-8

The Gospel Reading

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

John 3.16-21

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 ~ 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.*

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 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

God of all,

your being is love

and your desire is for us to grow in relationship with you.

Bless us on our journey,

that as we glorify you in praise and seek you in stillness

we may come to know you as the end of all our striving

and come to experience you as our faithful companion on the way,

through 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, who bore our sins on the cross,
set us free to serve him with joy.

Amen.

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The Collect: The Canterbury Book of New Parish Prayers, M. J. Kramer © 2021, Canterbury Press

The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: Daily Prayer © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

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