

Daily Prayer

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons

Wednesday, June 28, 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.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths.

The First Reading

Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him.

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

1 John 2.18-28

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

Psalm 145.8-1

The Gospel Reading

Jesus said, 'No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.'

Luke 11.33-36

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 Wisdom

Send Wisdom forth from your holy heavens;
from the throne of your glory
send what is pleasing to you.

O God of our ancestors and Lord of mercy, ♦
you have made all things by your word.

By your wisdom you have formed us ♦
to have dominion over the creatures you have made;

To rule the world in holiness and righteousness ♦
and to pronounce judgement in uprightness of soul.

Give us the Wisdom that sits by your throne; ♦
do not reject us from among your servants,

For we are your servants, ♦
with little understanding of judgement and laws.

Even one who is perfect among us ♦
will be regarded as nothing
without the wisdom that comes from you.

With you is Wisdom, she who knows your works, ♦
and was present when you made the world.

She understands what is pleasing in your sight ♦
and what is right according to your commandments.

Send her forth from the holy heavens, ♦
from the throne of your glory send her.

That she may labour at our side ♦
and that we may learn what is pleasing to you.

For she knows and understands all things, ♦
she will guide us wisely in our actions
and guard us with her glory.

Wisdom 9.1-5a,c,6,9-11

*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.*

Send Wisdom forth from your holy heavens;
from the throne of your glory
send what is pleasing to you.

*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

In peace, let us pray to Jesus our Lord,
who ever lives to make intercession for us.

Saviour of the world,
be present in all places of suffering, violence and pain,
and bring hope even in the darkest night.
Inspire us to continue your work of reconciliation today.
In peace we pray.

Lord of the Church,
empower by your Spirit the work of your Church in every land.
Give us grace to proclaim the gospel joyfully in word and deed.
In peace we pray.

Shepherd and Guardian of our souls,
guide and enable all who lead and serve this community
and those on whom we depend for our daily needs.
Grant that we may seek the peace and welfare of this place.
In peace we pray.

Great Physician,
stretch out your hand to bring comfort, wholeness and peace
to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
Fill us with compassion, that we may be channels of your healing
love.
In peace we pray.

Conqueror of death,
remember for good those whom we love but see no longer.
Help us to live this day in the sure and certain hope of your eternal
victory.
In peace we pray.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God. Amen

Our prayers conclude

God our Creator,
you delight to give us life,
and our life is fulfilled in the vision of your glory.
Grant that, following your holy servant Irenaeus
and withstanding every blast of vain doctrine,
we may never presume to set anything that you have made
beyond the embrace of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive 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 grant to the world justice, truth and peace.

Amen.

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons

Bishop of Lyons, Teacher of the Faith c.202 — Memorial

Irenaeus was a second-century bishop and teacher of the faith, who defended Christianity as a gospel for all of human life, in all its dimensions.

Irenaeus grew up in Asia Minor and learned the Christian faith from Polycarp, the holy bishop of Smyrna. After further studies in Rome, he settled at Lyons, a city in south-central France, where he became a presbyter. In the year 177 the Christians of this city were caught in a horrible persecution, during which their bishop and many others were martyred. At the time Irenaeus happened to be at Rome on official business, and when he returned to Lyons the surviving Christians elected him as their bishop. Over the next two decades he rebuilt his shattered community; and in the wider life of the Church he lived up to his own name, which is the Greek word for *peace*, by helping to re-establish harmony between the church of Rome and the churches in Asia Minor. He died at Lyons around the year 202.

Irenaeus was one of the first great theologians of the Christian Church. His most famous work is *Against the Heresies*. It is a long defense of Catholic doctrine against the people known as Gnostics, whose infiltration of Christianity was the great crisis of the second-century Church. This movement was divided into many different groups, but all shared a common belief that physical life was unredeemably evil. They taught that an immaterial spark of the divine was imprisoned in the flesh, and that "true" Christians should learn how to free it, so that it could fly upwards and be reabsorbed into God.

In his great work Irenaeus showed how Gnostic teachings conflicted with the Incarnation and resurrection of Christ. He taught that the Word became flesh in order to sanctify the whole of human life, its physical as well as its spiritual side, so that nothing was left outside the creative love of God and the transforming power of Christ. Though Irenaeus addressed his message to people and movements in the second century, his basic message has remained a touchstone of the Church's thinking ever since.

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