

Daily Prayer

Francis of Assisi

Wednesday, October 4, 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

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Galatians 6.14-18

The Psalm

Praise the Lord from the earth, ♦
you sea monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and mist, ♦
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
Mountains and all hills, ♦
fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle, ♦
creeping things and birds on the wing;
Kings of the earth and all peoples, ♦
princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and women,
old and young together; ♦
let them praise the name of the Lord.
For his name only is exalted, ♦
his splendour above earth and heaven.
He has raised up the horn of his people
and praise for all his faithful servants, ♦
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

Alleluia.

Psalm 148.7-14

The Gospel Reading

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Matthew 11.25-30

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 ~ Benedicite—A Song of Creation

Bless the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you heavens: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: ♦
bless the Lord all you his hosts;

bless the Lord you waters above the heavens: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord sun and moon: ♦
bless the Lord you stars of heaven;

bless the Lord all rain and dew: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all winds that blow: ♦
bless the Lord you fire and heat;

bless the Lord scorching wind and bitter cold: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord dews and falling snows: ♦
 bless the Lord you nights and days;

bless the Lord light and darkness: ♦
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord frost and cold: ♦
 bless the Lord you ice and snow;

bless the Lord lightnings and clouds: ♦
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

O let the earth bless the Lord: ♦
 bless the Lord you mountains and hills;

bless the Lord all that grows in the ground: ♦
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you springs: ♦
 bless the Lord you seas and rivers;

bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters: ♦
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all birds of the air: ♦
 bless the Lord you beasts and cattle;

bless the Lord all people on earth: ♦
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

O people of God bless the Lord: ♦
 bless the Lord you priests of the Lord;

bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: ♦
 sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: ♦
 bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

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.

Bless the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

*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

Grant us, Almighty God,
after the example of your holy servant Francis,
to do what you would have us do,
and always to desire what is pleasing in your sight,
that cleansed by your love,
enlightened by your truth,
and kindled with the fire of your Holy Spirit,
we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son
and make our way to you, O God most High;
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 grant to the world justice, truth and peace.

Amen.

Francis

Friar, 1226—Memorial

Today we celebrate Francis of Assisi, the thirteenth-century Italian whose greatest honour was to be known as *il Poverello*, “the little poor one of Christ.”

He grew up in a very wealthy family and seemed to have not a care in the world until he was twenty years old, when a chance encounter with a leper left him appalled by his own uselessness. Soon afterwards he heard Jesus speaking to him from a painting of the crucifixion over the altar of a local church. He threw away his wardrobe and renounced his father’s wealth in order to care for the poor and the crippled. In 1208 he heard the commission which the risen Lord gave to his apostles, “Go, make all nations my disciples,” and knew that it was also addressed to him. Francis began to train his followers for the task of making Jesus truly known and loved among the ordinary people of Italy. Out of this movement developed the Order of the Lesser Brethren, commonly called the Franciscans. Francis cared deeply for his new Order, but he also grew restless as it became an established institution of the Church. He distanced himself from its day-to-day life and eventually went his own way as he strove to imitate Christ’s total obedience to God. Two years before his death he was granted a sign which manifested this desire. One September day in 1224, he had a vision of the Crucified borne on the wings of a seraph. As the vision withdrew, the wounds of Jesus appeared in Francis’s own flesh — the scars like nail-wounds on his hands and feet, and in his right side a scar like a spear-wound. These marks, called the *stigmata*, remained on Francis’s body until his death two years later.

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