

# Daily Prayer

*Feria*

*Wednesday, November 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. 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

It happened also that seven brothers and their mother were arrested and were being compelled by the king, under torture with whips and thongs, to partake of unlawful swine's flesh.

The mother was especially admirable and worthy of honourable memory. Although she saw her seven sons perish within a single day, she bore it with good courage because of her hope in the Lord. She encouraged each of them in the language of their ancestors. Filled with a noble spirit, she reinforced her woman's reasoning with a man's courage, and said to them, 'I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you life and breath, nor I who set in order the elements within each of you. Therefore the Creator of the world, who shaped the beginning of humankind and devised the origin of all things, will in his mercy give life and breath back to you again, since you now forget yourselves for the sake of his laws.'

Antiochus felt that he was being treated with contempt, and he was suspicious of her reproachful tone. The youngest brother being still alive, Antiochus not only appealed to him in words, but promised with oaths that he would make him rich and enviable if he would turn from the ways of his ancestors, and that he would take him for his Friend and entrust him with public affairs. Since the young man would not listen to him at all, the king called the mother to him and urged her to advise the youth to save himself. After much urging on his part, she undertook to persuade her son. But, leaning close to him, she spoke in their native language as follows, deriding the cruel tyrant: 'My son, have pity on me. I carried you for nine months in my womb, and nursed you for three years, and have reared you and brought you up to this point in your life, and have taken care of you. I beg you, my child, to look at the heaven and the earth and see everything that is in them, and recognize that God did not make them out of things that existed. And in the same way the human race came into being. Do not fear this butcher, but prove worthy of your brothers. Accept death, so that in God's mercy I may get you back again along with your brothers.'

While she was still speaking, the young man said, 'What are you waiting for? I will not obey the king's command, but I obey the command of the law that was given to our ancestors through Moses. But you, who have contrived all sorts of evil against the Hebrews, will certainly not escape the hands of God.'

The king fell into a rage, and handled him worse than the others, being exasperated at his scorn. So he died in his integrity, putting his whole trust in the Lord.

Last of all, the mother died, after her sons.

Let this be enough, then, about the eating of sacrifices and the extreme tortures.

## The Psalm

Hear my just cause, O Lord; consider my complaint; ♦  
listen to my prayer, which comes not from lying lips.

Let my vindication come forth from your presence; ♦  
let your eyes behold what is right.

Weigh my heart, examine me by night, ♦  
refine me, and you will find no impurity in me.

My mouth does not trespass for earthly rewards; ♦  
I have heeded the words of your lips.

My footsteps hold fast in the ways of your commandments; ♦  
my feet have not stumbled in your paths.

I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; ♦  
incline your ear to me, and listen to my words.

Show me your marvellous loving-kindness, ♦  
O Saviour of those who take refuge at your right hand  
from those who rise up against them.

Keep me as the apple of your eye; ♦  
hide me under the shadow of your wings,

*Psalm 17.1-8*

## The Gospel Reading

As they were listening to this, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. So he said, 'A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return. He summoned ten of his slaves, and gave them ten pounds, and said to them, "Do business with these until I come back." But the citizens of his country hated him and sent a

delegation after him, saying, "We do not want this man to rule over us." When he returned, having received royal power, he ordered these slaves, to whom he had given the money, to be summoned so that he might find out what they had gained by trading. The first came forward and said, "Lord, your pound has made ten more pounds." He said to him, "Well done, good slave! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities." Then the second came, saying, "Lord, your pound has made five pounds." He said to him, "And you, rule over five cities." Then the other came, saying, "Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth, for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow." He said to him, "I will judge you by your own words, you wicked slave! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest." He said to the bystanders, "Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds." (And they said to him, "Lord, he has ten pounds!") "I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and slaughter them in my presence." '

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

*Luke 19.11-28*

*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 Lord's Anointed

The Lord has anointed me  
and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ♦  
because he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, ♦  
to bind up the broken-hearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives, ♦  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, ♦  
to comfort all who mourn,

To give them a garland instead of ashes, ♦  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit,

That they may be called oaks of righteousness, ♦  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

For as the earth puts forth her blossom, ♦  
and as seeds in the garden spring up,

So shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise ♦  
blossom before all the nations.

You shall be called priests of the Lord; ♦  
they shall speak of you as ministers of our God.

*Isaiah 61.1-3, 11, 6a*

*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.*

The Lord has anointed me  
and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.

*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, you know us from our creation  
and you understand our nature before we are born.  
Bless us in our searching for your will for our lives.  
Help us to hear the voice of your call when our lives seem empty  
and you seem far away,  
and grant us the courage to follow the path of service you have  
laid before each one of us  
and to find in it meaning, peace and joy,  
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 God grant to the world justice, truth and peace.

**Amen.**

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