

# Daily Prayer

*William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury*

*Wednesday, January 10, 2024*

*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.**

Your light springs up for the righteous

**and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

## **The First Reading**

They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD; they testified against them, but they would not listen.

Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, 'Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you.' But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD. King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, 'May the LORD see and avenge!'

*2 Chronicles 24.18-22*

## The Psalm

Yet I am always with you; ♦

you hold me by my right hand.

You will guide me with your counsel ♦

and afterwards receive me with glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you? ♦

And there is nothing upon earth that I desire  
in comparison with you.

Though my flesh and my heart fail me, ♦

God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

Truly, those who forsake you will perish; ♦

you will put to silence the faithless who betray you.

But it is good for me to draw near to God; ♦

in the Lord God have I made my refuge,  
that I may tell of all your works.

*Psalm 73.23-29*

## The Gospel Reading

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me;

and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of

me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not

worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

*Matthew 10.34-39*

*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 New Jerusalem**

Above you the Holy One arises

And above you God's glory appears.

Arise, shine out, for your light has come, ♦  
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

Though night still covers the earth, ♦  
and darkness the peoples;

Above you the Holy One arises, ♦  
and above you God's glory appears.

The nations will come to your light, ♦  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Your gates will lie open continually, ♦  
shut neither by day nor by night.

The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your  
land, ♦  
or ruin and devastation within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, ♦  
and your gates, Praise.

No more will the sun give you daylight, ♦  
nor moonlight shine upon you;

But the Lord will be your everlasting light, ♦  
your God will be your splendour.

For you shall be called the city of God, ♦  
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.

*Isaiah 60.1-3,11,18,19,14b*

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.

To us a child is born,  
to us a son is given.

*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**

From the rising of the sun to its setting, let us pray to the Lord.  
That the people of God in all the world  
may worship in spirit and in truth,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord hear our prayer.

That the Church may discover again that unity which is the  
Father's will,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord hear our prayer.

That the nations of the earth  
may seek after the ways that make for peace,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord hear our prayer.

That the whole creation, groaning in travail,  
may be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord hear our prayer.

That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death  
may rest in peace and rise in glory,

let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord hear our prayer.

Let us commend the world, to which Christ showed the way,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Our prayers conclude*

O God, the everlasting Sovereign,  
you ordain the whole of our nature  
for delight in the beauty of holiness,  
that we may reverence you with our bodies  
even as we worship you with our souls.  
Lead us in the way of your servant William Laud,  
and grant us so to be mindful of his service  
that we may never grow weary in our earnest care  
for the integrity and welfare of your Church;  
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 Christ, who sends us to the nations,  
give us the power of his Spirit. **Amen.**

## **William Laud**

*Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645—Commemoration*

William Laud became archbishop of Canterbury in 1633 and was executed twelve years later because of his programme of reform. He sought to restore discipline in the Church of England and revive a sense of beauty and dignity in its celebration of the liturgy.

Laud came to maturity when the established Church was hardpressed by Puritanism, a reform-movement which offered individuals a spiritual discipline to sustain their experience of conversion. To counter this movement, he and his friends developed a rival discipline, a pattern of Christian practice which focused on the liturgy and outward acts of reverence. Laud himself once explained: "I take myself bound to worship with body as well as in soul, whenever I come where God is worshipped."

Even before he became archbishop of Canterbury, this discipline was hated by a broad cross-section of English society. But after he was made archbishop, he and his party became the scapegoats for everything else that seemed to be wrong in England. Laud did not relent, and the brutal punishment meted out to several of his critics only inflamed public opinion further. Parliament impeached him in 1640, and he languished in the Tower of London for over four years.

When he was finally brought to trial, he defended himself so ably that Parliament decided to override the judicial process and passed a special act condemning him to death. He was beheaded on January tenth, 1645.

Nevertheless, Laud's vision of the Church at prayer survived and became the standard of Anglican liturgical practice for the next two centuries. So we honour him today for giving our tradition a richer sense of worship and a fuller delight in "the beauty of holiness."

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