

Daily Prayer

Advent Ember Day

Wednesday, December 13, 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.

Reveal among us the light of your presence
that we may behold your power and glory.

The First Reading

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God'?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40.25-31

The Psalm

Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦
and all that is within me bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦
and forget not all his benefits;

Who forgives all your sins ♦
and heals all your infirmities;

Who redeems your life from the Pit ♦
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;

Who satisfies you with good things, ♦
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness ♦
and judgement for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses ♦
and his works to the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, ♦
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, ♦
neither will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, ♦
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

Psalm 103.1-10

The Gospel Reading

'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 11.28-30

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 ~ A Song of the Wilderness

Lift up your voice with strength,
O herald of good tidings.

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, ♦
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, ♦
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands, ♦
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,
your God is coming with judgement, ♦
coming with judgement to save you.'

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, ♦
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
Then shall the lame leap like a hart, ♦
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, ♦
and streams in the desert;
The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, ♦
with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, ♦
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35.1, 2b-4a, 4c-6 10

*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.*
Lift up your voice with strength,
O herald of good tidings.

*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

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, saying
Show us your mercy
And grant us your salvation.

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,
Show us your mercy
And grant us your salvation.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
Show us your mercy
And grant us your salvation.

That God may bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,
Show us your mercy
And grant us your salvation.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
Show us your mercy
And grant us your salvation.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
Show us your mercy
And grant us your salvation.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray
to the mercy and protection of maker and redeemer:
Show us your mercy
And grant us your salvation.

Our prayers conclude

Lord our God,
through your prophets you comforted us in our weakness
and called us to use our strengths for the good of others.
As we pray in this season for Christ's coming,
so we ask that we would have the confidence
to renew our own lives,
that, through compassion and practical service,
we may be made agents of your kingdom in our world,
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 the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

Amen.

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