

# Daily Prayer

## *Advent FERIA*

*Wednesday, December 20, 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**

But now hear, O Jacob my servant,  
Israel whom I have chosen!

Thus says the LORD who made you,  
who formed you in the womb and will help you:

Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,  
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

For I will pour water on the thirsty land,  
and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,  
and my blessing on your offspring.

They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,  
like willows by flowing streams.

This one will say, 'I am the LORD's',  
another will be called by the name of Jacob,  
yet another will write on the hand, 'The LORD's',  
and adopt the name of Israel.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.  
Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

*Isaiah 44.1-8*

## **The Psalm**

His foundation is on the holy mountains. ♦  
The Lord loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.  
Glorious things are spoken of you, ♦  
Zion, city of our God.  
I record Egypt and Babylon as those who know me; ♦  
behold Philistia, Tyre and Ethiopia:  
in Zion were they born.  
And of Zion it shall be said, 'Each one was born in her, ♦  
and the Most High himself has established her.'  
The Lord will record as he writes up the peoples, ♦  
'This one also was born there.'  
And as they dance they shall sing, ♦  
'All my fresh springs are in you.'

*Psalm 87*

## The Gospel Reading

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

*John 17.6-19*

*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

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**

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
reaching from one end to the other mightily,  
and sweetly ordering all things:  
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,  
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush  
and gave him the law on Sinai:  
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;  
before you kings will shut their mouths,  
to you the nations will make their prayer:  
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;  
you open and no one can shut;  
you shut and no one can open:  
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,  
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Morning Star,  
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:  
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, and their desire,  
the cornerstone making both one:  
Come and save the human race,  
which you fashioned from clay

O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver,  
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:  
Come and save us, O Lord our God

*Our prayers conclude*

God of gods,  
whom saints and angels worship and adore,  
as we prepare our hearts for your Son's coming,  
renew our spirits with the joy of your home,  
that reaching out to you in our waiting,  
and praising you in our worship,  
we may come to know more deeply the mystery of Christ  
and the fullness of your divine compassion on our world,  
through the same 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.



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The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: Daily Prayer © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

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