

# Daily Prayer

*Ash Wednesday*

*Wednesday, February 14, 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.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,  
**according to your judgement give us life.**

## **The First Reading**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

    for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

a day of darkness and gloom,

    a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains

    a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

    nor will be again after them

    in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,

    return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

    rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain-offering and a drink-offering  
for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,  
"Where is their God?" '

*Joel 2.1-2, 12-17*

## The Psalm

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.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, ♦  
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, ♦  
so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, ♦  
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.

For he knows of what we are made; ♦  
he remembers that we are but dust.

Our days are but as grass; ♦  
we flourish as a flower of the field;

For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone, ♦  
and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord is from of old  
and endures for ever on those who fear him, ♦  
and his righteousness on children's children;

On those who keep his covenant ♦  
and remember his commandments to do them.

*Psalm 103.8-18*

## The Gospel Reading

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

*Mark 7.14-23*

*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 Manasseh

Full of compassion and mercy and love  
Is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, ♦  
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

All things tremble with awe at your presence, ♦  
before your great and mighty power.

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, ♦  
for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful, ♦  
and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness, ♦  
you have promised forgiveness for repentance to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you ♦  
are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, ♦  
because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, ♦  
imploring your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, ♦  
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, ♦  
according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise, ♦  
and your glory is for ever and ever.

*Manasseh 1a,2,4,6,7a,b,9a,c,11,12,14b,15b*

*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.*

Full of compassion and mercy and love  
Is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

*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

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.  
For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ...  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church,  
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel  
to the ends of the earth,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For those preparing for baptism and confirmation...  
and for their teachers and sponsors,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world ...  
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow  
among nations and peoples,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ...  
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;  
that they may be relieved and protected,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For those whom we have injured or offended,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of  
holiness ...

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

God our Father,

in your love and goodness

you have taught us to come close to you in penitence

with prayer, fasting and generosity;

accept our Lenten discipline,

and when we fall by our weakness,

raise us up by your unfailing mercy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Our prayers conclude*

Almighty and everlasting God,

you hate nothing that you have made

and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent;

create and make in us new and contrite hearts

that we, worthily lamenting our sins

and acknowledging our wretchedness,

may receive from you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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 our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

**Amen.**



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