

Daily Prayer

Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne

Wednesday, March 20, 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

I will stand at my watch-post,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.
Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.
Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

Habakkuk 2.1-4

The Psalm

I will listen to what the Lord God will say, ♦
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, ♦
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together, ♦
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦
and righteousness look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, ♦
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him ♦
and direct his steps in the way.

Psalm 85.8-13

The Gospel Reading

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6.30-34

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 ~ Benedicite—A Song of Creation

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you heavens: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all people on earth: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

O people of God bless the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: ♦
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

A Song of the Three 35-37, 30-65

*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.*

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

Eternal God,

by the holy life and preaching

of your blessed servant Cuthbert

you sought a straying people

and restored them to your fold.

Grant us so to follow his example

that we may obey your heavenly summons

and shape our deeds and devotion

for the salvation of all who seek our aid;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive 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 God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

Amen.

Cuthbert

Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687—Commemoration

Today we honour the memory of Cuthbert, a monk and bishop who worked as a pastoral missionary in seventh-century Northumbria.

He entered Melrose abbey around the year 651 and from there began his evangelistic work in the surrounding countryside. After several years in the field he retired to Lindisfarne, an island off the northeastern coast of England, in order to practise the silence and secrecy of the hermit's life of contemplation. But he still visited the mainland in regular missionary pilgrimages, often spending up to a month at a time away from his island cell. The Venerable Bede later noted that Cuthbert "used especially to make for those places and preach in those villages that were far away on steep and rugged mountains, which others dreaded to visit and whose poverty and ignorance kept other teachers away."

Even after he was made bishop of Lindisfarne in the year 684, he continued to alternate between the hidden labours of prayer on his island retreat and the strenuous work of missionary journeys on the mainland. He died three years later, and his body was eventually laid to rest in Durham cathedral, where vast numbers of pilgrims visited his shrine throughout the Middle Ages.

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