

Daily Prayer

Francis de Sales

Wednesday, January 24, 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

Happy are those who find wisdom,

and those who get understanding,

for her income is better than silver,

and her revenue better than gold.

She is more precious than jewels,

and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Long life is in her right hand;

in her left hand are riches and honour.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness,

and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;

those who hold her fast are called happy.

Proverbs 3.13-18

The Psalm

Lord, how I love your law! ♦

All the day long it is my study.

Your commandments have made me wiser than my enemies, ♦

for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, ♦

for your testimonies are my meditation.

I am wiser than the aged, ♦

because I keep your commandments.

I restrain my feet from every evil way, ♦

that I may keep your word.

I have not turned aside from your judgements, ♦

for you have been my teacher.

How sweet are your words on my tongue! ♦

They are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Through your commandments I get understanding; ♦

therefore I hate all lying ways.

Psalm 119.97-104

The Gospel Reading

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5.13-16

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.

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, our Creator and our Goal,
who guided many in the practice of your love
by the ministry of your servant Francis de Sales,
grant us so to live by the grace of Christ
that we may serve you with our prayers,
praise you with our minds,
and show forth your love by our readiness in mercy;
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.**

Francis de Sales

Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622—Commemoration

Francis de Sales was the Roman Catholic bishop of Geneva from 1602 until his death twenty years later. Since Geneva was the home base of Calvinist protestantism, Francis never actually presided in the city itself. This left him free to carry out his true vocation, which was to guide and direct individual Christians in their longing to love God.

Francis's own desire to serve God had been severely tested in his youth. He wished to become a priest, while his father insisted that he study law. Francis obeyed his father's wishes and eventually became a full-fledged advocate. But the interior cost was tremendous, and he passed through a time of acute despair. His father finally relented and permitted him to begin training for the priesthood.

Francis never forgot his inner trial and even recognized that it had been necessary for him to find God in the midst of secular work before he could serve God as a priest. This made him sensitive to the despair that people sometimes felt when they tried to live the devout life in a world — and in a Church — which regarded religious discipline as a matter for cloistered experts. In his writing, in his preaching, and in his spiritual direction, he therefore strove to put the life of Christian prayer and meditation within the reach of all those who wished to love God in the midst of their day-to-day lives.

Credits:

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2024