

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, January 31, 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

So the king said to Joab and the commanders of the army, who were with him, 'Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and take a census of the people, so that I may know how many there are.' Joab reported to the king the number of those who had been recorded: in Israel there were eight hundred thousand soldiers able to draw the sword, and those of Judah were five hundred thousand.

But afterwards, David was stricken to the heart because he had numbered the people. David said to the LORD, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, I pray you, take away the guilt of your servant; for I have done very foolishly.' When David rose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 'Go and say to David: Thus says the LORD: Three things I offer you; choose one of them, and I will do it to you.' So Gad came to David and told him; he asked him, 'Shall

three years of famine come to you on your land? Or will you flee for three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to the one who sent me.' Then David said to Gad, 'I am in great distress; let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into human hands.'

So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from that morning until the appointed time; and seventy thousand of the people died, from Dan to Beer-sheba. But when the angel stretched out his hand towards Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented concerning the evil, and said to the angel who was bringing destruction among the people, 'It is enough; now stay your hand.' The angel of the LORD was then by the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel who was destroying the people, he said to the LORD, 'I alone have sinned, and I alone have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house.'

2 Samuel 24.2, 9-17

The Psalm

Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, ♦
and whose sin is covered.

Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, ♦
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For I held my tongue; ♦
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all the day long.

Your hand was heavy upon me day and night; ♦
my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you ♦
and my iniquity I did not hide.

I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' ♦
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you
in time of trouble; ♦
in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.

You are a place for me to hide in;
you preserve me from trouble; ♦
you surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psalm 32.1-8

The Gospel Reading

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching.

Mark 6.1-6

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 ~ The Song of Zechariah

This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
*to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,*

To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, ♦
*holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.*

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 6.1-9

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.

This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.

*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

Lord of all,

we thank you for your gift of sisters and brothers in faith,
and for the ways they teach, inspire and challenge us in our
following of you.

Renew us by the power of your Spirit, we pray,

that our whole lives may be an offering in your service.

Take from all Christians our tendency to self-focus and
complacency,

and open our hearts to love and serve the world you have made,
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, who has called us out of darkness

into his marvellous light,

bless us and fill us with peace.

Amen.

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Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

416.922.4948

office@theredeemer.ca

www.TheRedeemer.ca

Facebook: theRedeemerTO

Instagram: theRedeemerTO

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