

Daily Prayer

Lenten Feria

Wednesday, March 6, 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

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

See, just as the LORD my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children

and your children's children— how you once stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people for me, and I will let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me as long as they live on the earth, and may teach their children to do so';

Deuteronomy 4.1, 5-10

The Psalm

Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem; ♦
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates ♦
and has blest your children within you.

He has established peace in your borders ♦
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends forth his command to the earth ♦
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool ♦
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread; ♦
who can endure his frost?

He sends forth his word and melts them; ♦
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, ♦
his statutes and judgements to Israel.

He has not dealt so with any other nation; ♦
they do not know his laws.

Psalm 147.13-21

The Gospel Reading

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.17-20

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

God of our pilgrimage,

by whose light alone the path before us becomes clear

and by whose hope we are given the confidence to continue in
the way,

bless us through the journey of our lives,

that in all our strivings, our plans, our disappointments and our new
beginnings,

we would know your presence as our companion,

and come to understand, even more deeply,
that unconditional love offered to us by your Son,
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.

Credits:

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