

# Daily Prayer

## *Easter Feria*

*Wednesday, April 17, 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.**

In your resurrection, O Christ,

**let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

### **The First Reading**

And Saul approved of their killing him.

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralysed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

*Acts 8.1b-8*

## The Psalm

Be joyful in God, all the earth; ♦  
sing the glory of his name;  
sing the glory of his praise.

Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! ♦  
Because of your great strength  
your enemies shall bow before you.

'All the earth shall worship you, ♦  
sing to you, sing praise to your name.'

Come now and behold the works of God, ♦  
how wonderful he is in his dealings with humankind.

He turned the sea into dry land;  
the river they passed through on foot; ♦  
there we rejoiced in him.

In his might he rules for ever;  
his eyes keep watch over the nations; ♦  
let no rebel rise up against him.

*Psalm 66.1-6*

## The Gospel Reading

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son

and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

*John 6.35-40*

*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 ~ Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)**

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 1.68-79*

*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**

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.  
Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,  
give food to the hungry ...  
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth

and fill us with your life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,  
recover the straggler,  
bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick  
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us,  
accept our prayers, and be with us always.  
Amen.

*Our prayers conclude*

God of Creation,  
in love you brought this world into being  
and in mercy you called it to new life in your Son;  
bless Christians throughout the world  
as we celebrate this Easter Feast,  
that it may be for us  
a season of encouragement,  
a time of thanksgiving  
and an inspiration to bring the gospel to others,  
through the same 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 the risen Christ grant us the joy of eternal life.

**Amen.**



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