

# Daily Prayer

*Feria*

*Wednesday, June 12, 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.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,

**and teach me your paths.**

## The First Reading

So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, 'How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, 'I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets number four hundred and fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the LORD; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.' All the people answered, 'Well spoken!' Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.' So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, 'O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and no answer. They

limped about the altar that they had made. At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, 'Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.' Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come closer to me'; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, 'Israel shall be your name'; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, 'Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt-offering and on the wood.' Then he said, 'Do it a second time'; and they did it a second time. Again he said, 'Do it a third time'; and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all round the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, 'O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.' Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt-offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The LORD indeed is God; the LORD indeed is God.' *1 Kings 18.20-39*

## The Psalm

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; ♦

I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
all my good depends on you.'

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

I have set the Lord always before me; ♦  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; ♦  
my flesh also shall rest secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

*Psalm 16.1, 6-11*

## 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.

*Matthew 5.17-19*

*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 Word of the Lord**

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, ♦  
call upon him while he is near;

Let the wicked abandon their ways, ♦  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; ♦  
to our God, who will richly pardon.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, ♦  
neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.

'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, ♦  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

'As the rain and the snow come down from above, ♦  
and return not again but water the earth,

'Bringing forth life and giving growth, ♦  
seed for sowing and bread to eat,

'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; ♦  
it will not return to me fruitless,

'But it will accomplish that which I purpose, ♦  
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

*Isaiah 55.6-11*

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.

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.

*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 for the flourishing of God's gifts to his Church, saying:  
Lord of the Church,  
in your mercy hear us.

God our Father, you give us gifts that we may work together  
in the service of your Son:  
bless the leaders of your Church,  
that they may be firm in faith,  
and humble before you.

Lord of the Church,  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who teach,  
that they may increase our understanding,  
and be open to your word for them.

Lord of the Church,  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who minister healing,  
that they may bring wholeness to others,  
yet know your healing in themselves.

Lord of the Church,  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those through whom you speak,  
that they may proclaim your word in power,  
yet open their ears to your gentle whisper.  
Lord of the Church,  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who work in your world today,  
that in the complexity of their daily lives  
they may live for you, fulfil your purposes,  
and seek your kingdom first.  
Lord of the Church,  
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who are uncertain of their gifts  
and those who are powerless in this world's eyes,  
that they may be made strong in your gift of the Holy Spirit.  
Lord of the Church,  
hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

*Our prayers conclude*

God of all,  
you inspire your Church with the Holy Spirit  
to be filled with a love of service  
and an insight into how we may best serve your world.  
In the uncertainty and rapid changes of these days,  
show us how to be your light in times of darkness,  
your refreshment in times of thirst  
and your healing in times of distress,  
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 grant to the world justice, peace and truth.

**Amen.**

Credits:

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