

Daily Prayer

Boniface, Archbishop of Mainz

Wednesday, June 5, 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

From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. When they came to him, he said to them:

'You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus. And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace.

'And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.

Acts 20.17-28

The Psalm

Blessed are those whom you chasten, O Lord, ♦
whom you instruct from your law;

That you may give them rest in days of adversity, ♦
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

For the Lord will not fail his people, ♦
neither will he forsake his inheritance.

For justice shall return to the righteous, ♦
and all that are true of heart shall follow it.

Who will rise up for me against the wicked? ♦
Who will take my part against the evildoers?

If the Lord had not helped me, ♦
my soul would soon have been put to silence.

And when I said, 'My foot has slipped', ♦
your loving mercy, O Lord, upheld me.

In the multitude of cares that troubled my heart, ♦
your comforts have refreshed my soul.

Psalm 94.12-19

The Gospel Reading

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Matthew 28.16-20

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 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

Almighty God,
for the sake of your gospel you made your servant Boniface
a pilgrim among the German people
to form by his preaching and gifts of administration
a people for your own possession.
Pour out upon your Church in every land
the measureless gifts of your Holy Spirit,
that by the willing and loving service of many
your holy Name may be glorified
and your kingdom may embrace all nations;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive 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 God grant to the world justice, peace and truth.

Amen.

Boniface

Archbishop of Mainz, Missionary, Martyr, 754—Memorial

Boniface was an English monk who went to the continent of Europe in the year 716 and spent the next four decades preaching the Gospel and building up the Church among the tribes who who inhabited the Black Forest and the valley of the Rhine. He enjoyed the generous and wise support of Pope Gregory II; and from his native land he received a steady stream of English monks, the best and brightest of their generation, who joined in his missionary pilgrimage.

He founded a network of monasteries throughout southern Germany and was careful to equip them with good libraries. These monasteries ensured the continuing evangelization of the people, and with their libraries the monks themselves had the resources to make their German converts true sharers in the heritage of Christian culture.

Boniface was made archbishop of Mainz in the year 732, but spent the better part of the next two decades away from the mission field supervising a programme of reform in the Frankish church. Frustrated by the opposition of vested interests, he decided to resume his work as a missionary and set out for the Low Countries in order to evangelize the Frisians, who were a militantly pagan people. He seems to have expected martyrdom, and this is indeed what happened on June fifth in the year 754. His company was ambushed by pagan warriors, and Boniface perished under their swords.

Credits:

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