

Daily Prayer

John Mason Neale

Wednesday, August 7, 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

Wisdom teaches her children

and gives help to those who seek her.

Whoever loves her loves life,

and those who seek her from early morning are filled with joy.

Whoever holds her fast inherits glory,

and the Lord blesses the place she enters.

Those who serve her minister to the Holy One;

the Lord loves those who love her.

If they remain faithful, they will inherit her;

their descendants will also obtain her.

For at first she will walk with them on tortuous paths;

she will bring fear and dread upon them,

and will torment them by her discipline

until she trusts them,

and she will test them with her ordinances.

Then she will come straight back to them again and gladden them,

and will reveal her secrets to them.

Sirach 4.11-14, 16-18

The Psalm

Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, ♦
for his faithfulness endures for ever.

Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord ♦
or show forth all his praise

Blessed are those who observe what is right ♦
and always do what is just.

Remember me, O Lord, in the favour you bear for your
people; ♦
visit me in the day of your salvation;

That I may see the prosperity of your chosen
and rejoice in the gladness of your people, ♦
and exult with your inheritance.

Psalm 106.1-5

The Gospel Reading

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Matthew 13.44-52

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

O God our Hope and Strength,
grant us in all time of our testing
to know your presence and obey your will,
that following the example of your servant John Mason Neale,
we may accomplish with integrity what you give us to do,
and endure with the courage of love
what you give us to bear;

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.

John Mason Neale—*Priest, 1866*

Commemoration

John Mason Neale was an English priest in the mid-nineteenth century, who helped to enrich the devotional life of the Anglican communion.

Neale was ordained in 1842, but weak health prevented him from being a parish priest. Instead, he became the warden of a home for elderly pensioners and began his career as a writer and spiritual director. In 1854 he founded the Society of St. Margaret, an Anglican order of nuns which prospered under his guidance and has cared for the sick, the poor, and orphans in many lands — including Canada, where it established a house at Montreal and for many years staffed a mission in the diocese of Algoma.

As a writer Neale excelled at translating ancient Christian hymns for modern use, and many of his versions have become classics in their own right — for example, “Come, ye faithful, raise the strain,” “Christ is made the sure foundation,” and “Jerusalem the golden.” He also wrote a large number of new hymns and carols, the best known being “Good Christian men, rejoice” and “Good King Wenceslas.”

Neale’s life was not uncontroversial. He was one of the first Anglican priests to wear full eucharistic vestments and to make a rule of celebrating the eucharist facing eastwards. These innovations infuriated his diocesan bishop, who withdrew Neale’s license and for fifteen years refused to let him celebrate the eucharist. The anguish which this judgement caused him, together with his heavy commitments as spiritual director and writer, contributed to his death at the age of forty-eight on August 6th in 1866.

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2024