

# Daily Prayer

## *Advent Ember Day*

*Wednesday, December 18, 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.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence  
**that we may behold your power and glory.**

### **The First Reading**

But now hear, O Jacob my servant,

Israel whom I have chosen!

Thus says the LORD who made you,

who formed you in the womb and will help you:

Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,

Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

For I will pour water on the thirsty land,

and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,

and my blessing on your offspring.

They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,

like willows by flowing streams.

This one will say, 'I am the LORD's',

another will be called by the name of Jacob,

yet another will write on the hand, 'The LORD's',

and adopt the name of Israel.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.  
Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

*Isaiah 44.1-8*

## **The Psalm**

His foundation is on the holy mountains. ♦  
The Lord loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.  
Glorious things are spoken of you, ♦  
Zion, city of our God.  
I record Egypt and Babylon as those who know me; ♦  
behold Philistia, Tyre and Ethiopia:  
in Zion were they born.  
And of Zion it shall be said, 'Each one was born in her, ♦  
and the Most High himself has established her.'  
The Lord will record as he writes up the peoples, ♦  
'This one also was born there.'  
And as they dance they shall sing, ♦  
'All my fresh springs are in you.'

*Psalm 87*

## The Gospel Reading

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

*John 17.6-19*

*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 Baruch

Lead us, O God, with joy  
to walk in the light of glory.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height: ♦  
look to the east and see your children,

Gathered from the west and the east ♦  
at the word of the Holy One.

They rejoice that God has remembered them ♦  
and has brought them back to you.

For God has ordered that every high mountain ♦  
and the everlasting hills be made low,

And the valleys filled up to make level ground ♦  
so that they may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree ♦  
have shaded them at God's command.

For God will lead his people with joy  
in the light of his glory ♦  
with the mercy and righteousness that comes from God.

*Baruch 5.5,6c,7-9*

*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.*

Lead us, O God, with joy  
to walk in the light of glory.

*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

Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations  
his sceptre of righteousness,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,  
restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Almighty God,  
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ  
first came to seek and to save the lost;  
so may he come again to find in us  
the completion of his redeeming work;  
for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Our prayers conclude*

God of peace,  
in whose love our hope of rest abides,  
be present with us in the changes and anxieties of this earthly life  
and, through the compassion you give us for others,  
enable us to hold before them the light of hope  
and the reassurance of support and fellowship in times of difficulty,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*[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 Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**





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