

Daily Prayer

The Naming of Jesus

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

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.

You laid the foundation of the earth

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

The First Reading

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Numbers 6 22-27

The Psalm

God be gracious to us and bless us ♦
and make his face to shine upon us,
That your way may be known upon earth, ♦
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad, ♦
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.*

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, ♦
and God, our own God, will bless us.

God will bless us, ♦
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Psalm 67

The Gospel Reading

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2.15-21

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 Covenant

I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.

Thus says God, who created the heavens, ♦
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;

Who gives breath to the people upon it ♦
and spirit to those who walk in it,

'I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness, ♦
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

'I have given you as a covenant to the people, ♦
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

'To bring out the captives from the dungeon, ♦
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

'I am the Lord, that is my name; ♦
my glory I give to no other.'

Isaiah 42.5-8a

*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.*

I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.

*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

Eternal Father,
we give thanks for your incarnate Son,
whose name is our salvation.
Plant in every heart, we pray,
the love of him who is the saviour of the world,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in glory everlasting.

[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, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.

Amen.

The Naming of Jesus

1 January

Holy Day

According to Saint Luke, Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, as the Law of Moses required. This is an event of tremendous religious importance for Jews. Circumcision entitles the newborn male to share in “the promise of mercy” which God “made to Abraham and his children for ever.” For this reason, Jewish custom sees it as the most suitable occasion for giving the child his name and thus a distinct presence in the community of God’s people.

Luke the evangelist made nothing of these Jewish beliefs in his account. He mentioned the circumcision of Jesus for one reason only: it fulfilled the last word of the Annunciation, when the angel told the Virgin Mary that the son she would bear should be named Jesus. Therefore, instead of commemorating the Circumcision of Christ, the Church observes the Gospel’s emphasis and celebrates January first — the eighth day after Christmas Day — as the Naming of Jesus.

Jesus is the Greek form of a Hebrew name, *Yeshu’* (or Joshua), meaning “Yahweh saves.” And that fact has immense significance for the Church.

According to the Book of Exodus, God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and called him to bring the Hebrew people out of Egypt. Moses asked the divine voice, “What is your name?” And God answered with the word “Yahweh,” which means “I am who I am.” Because this name was laden with all the holiness of the Almighty, the people of Israel developed the custom of never speaking it; whenever they met it in the text of Scripture, they spoke the Hebrew word for “Lord” instead.

But when Mary gave birth to her child, “I am who I am” entered human life as “I am the One who saves.” God’s name became speakable for humans, because all the saving power of the Almighty was embodied in “the name of Jesus.” To take this name upon our lips — and still more, to manifest this name in our lives — is to become what Jesus is, human life in intimate communion with God.

Credits:

Scripture quotations: The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved.

The Psalm: Common Worship: Psalter © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Canticle: Common Worship: Canticles © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Intercessions: Common Worship: Advent © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Collect: For All the Saints © 2007, General Synod, Anglican Church of Canada

The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: Christmas © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

Biographical Information: For All the Saints © 2007, General Synod, Anglican Church of Canada

Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

416.922.4948

office@theredeemer.ca

www.TheRedeemer.ca

Facebook: theRedeemerTO

Instagram: theRedeemerTO

2024