

Daily Prayer

Vincent of Saragossa

Wednesday, January 22, 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

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Colossians 1.24-29

The Psalm

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; ♦
 deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; ♦
 make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦
 guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me, ♦
 for you are my strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦
 for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

Psalm 31.1-5

The Gospel Reading

'I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

'And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the

rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.'

Luke 12.4-12

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

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.

You have called us into the family
of those who are the children of God.

May our love for our brothers, sisters and siblings in Christ
be strengthened by your grace.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be a temple
where the Holy Spirit can dwell.
so that our lives will reflect your holiness.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be a light to the world,
so that those in darkness come to you.

May our lives shine as a witness
to the saving grace you have given for all.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be members of your body,
so that when one suffers, all suffer together.

We ask for your comfort and healing power
to bring hope to those in distress.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
you have called us into fellowship with all your saints.

We unite our prayers with theirs
and ask for grace to serve you with joy
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for all eternity.
Amen.

Our prayers conclude

God of boundless compassion,
who made your holy deacon Vincent
a worthy partner in the sufferings of Christ,
strengthen us to endure all adversity
with invincible and steadfast faith,
that our assurance of your saving justice
may vanquish all dangers that assault our bodies
and all wounds that would harm our souls;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives 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, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.

Amen.

Vincent of Saragossa

22 January

Deacon of Saragossa, Martyr, c. 304—Commemoration

Today we remember Vincent, a Spanish deacon who suffered for the faith around the year 304. He was arrested with the bishop of Saragossa, a man named Valerius. Because Valerius stammered, he often relied on Vincent to give the homily on his behalf. When the two were brought before the Roman governor, Vincent turned to Valerius and said, "Father, if you order me, I will speak." The bishop responded, "Son, as I committed you to dispense the word of God, so I now charge you to answer in vindication of the faith which we defend." Vincent spoke and held back nothing either in his defense of the faith or in his condemnation of paganism. The governor was enraged by the deacon's effrontery. He sentenced Valerius to exile, but ordered Vincent to the horrors of the torture chamber. For several hours Vincent endured the worst torments that the ancient world could devise. In the end his body surrendered its life because his spirit refused to surrender Christ.

Vincent's endurance caused the Church to stand in awe of him — and to recognize how he came by the strength that he needed. In the early fifth century Augustine of Hippo told his flock: "If you were to consider Vincent's martyrdom nothing more than human endurance, his act is unbelievable. But Vincent ceases to be a source of astonishment, once you recognize the power to be from God."

Credits:

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