

# Daily Prayer

## *Christmas*

*Wednesday, December 25, 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.**

You laid the foundation of the earth

**and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

### **The First Reading**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Isaiah 9.2-7*

## **The Psalm**

Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦  
tell out his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations ♦  
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦  
he is more to be feared than all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦  
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him; ♦  
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦  
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦  
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦  
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦  
with righteousness he will judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.

*Psalm 87*

## **The Gospel Reading**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because

there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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.

*Luke 2.1-20*

*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 God's Chosen One

The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stock of Jesse, ♦  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, ♦  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

The spirit of counsel and might, ♦  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, ♦  
or decide by what his ears hear,

But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, ♦  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, ♦  
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.

The calf, the lion and the fatling together, ♦  
with a little child to lead them.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, ♦  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

*Isaiah 11.1, 2, 3b-4a, 6, 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.*

The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

*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

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.  
Christ, born in a stable,  
give courage to all who are homeless.  
Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang,  
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.  
Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,  
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.  
Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,  
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.  
Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,  
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.  
Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

**Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,  
you know us and love us,  
you share our lives  
and hear our prayer.  
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

*Our prayers conclude*

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God With Us,  
help us to know his presence among us  
and to be so transformed by his power,  
that in our worship, our words and our actions  
we may reflect something of the glory  
of the light of the world  
to those with whom we share our lives  
through the same 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 God, who has called us out of darkness  
into his marvellous light,  
bless us and fill us with peace.

**Amen.**





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