

Daily Prayer

Christmas Feria

Wednesday, January 8, 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

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4.7-12

The Psalm

Give the king your judgements, O God, ♦
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
Then shall he judge your people righteously ♦
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains bring forth peace, ♦
and the little hills righteousness for the people.
May he defend the poor among the people, ♦
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, ♦
from one generation to another.
May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, ♦
like the showers that water the earth.
In his time shall righteousness flourish, ♦
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.
May his dominion extend from sea to sea ♦
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 72.1-8

The Gospel Reading

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went

ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.' But he answered them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?' And he said to them, 'How many loaves have you? Go and see.' When they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish.' Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Mark 6.30-44

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.
Give us clean hands and pure hearts

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 glory,

by your will the whole creation came into being,

and by your love it is sustained and flourishes with delight.

Show us your glory in our lives,

that through the beauty of all that is around us

we would come to know your majesty,

and through our words and actions

we would come to share the inspiration you bring with others,

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

Amen.

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