

Daily Prayer

St Joseph of Nazareth

Wednesday, March 19, 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.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

according to your judgement give us life.

The First Reading

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be

a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

2 Samuel 7.4, 8-16

The Psalm

My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: ♦
with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness
throughout all generations.

I will declare that your love is established for ever; ♦
you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.

For you said: 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; ♦
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

“Your seed will I establish for ever ♦
and build up your throne for all generations.”

'He shall call to me, "You are my Father, ♦
my God, and the rock of my salvation;'

'And I will make him my firstborn, ♦
the most high above the kings of the earth.

'The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever, ♦
and my covenant will stand fast with him.

'His seed also will I make to endure for ever ♦
and his throne as the days of heaven.

Psalm 89.1-4, 26-29

The Gospel Reading

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Luke 2,41-52

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 Manasseh

Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, ♦
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

All things tremble with awe at your presence, ♦
before your great and mighty power.

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, ♦
for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very
merciful, ♦
and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness, ♦
you have promised forgiveness for repentance
to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you ♦
are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, ♦
because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, ♦
imploring your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, ♦
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, ♦
according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise, ♦
and your glory is for ever and ever.

Manasseh 1a,2,4,6,7a,b,9a,c,11,12,14b,15b

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.

Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

*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

With confidence and trust let us pray to God.
For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ...
let us pray to God.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel
to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to God.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those preparing for baptism ...
and for their teachers and sponsors,
let us pray to God.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world ...
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow
among nations and peoples,
let us pray to God.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ...
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;
that they may be relieved and protected,
let us pray to God.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended,
let us pray to God.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,
let us pray to God.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of
holiness ...

let us pray to God.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

God our creator,
in your love and goodness
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence
with prayer, fasting and generosity;
accept our Lenten discipline,
and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our prayers conclude

O God,
from the family of your servant David
you raised up Joseph
to be the guardian of your incarnate Son.
Give us grace to follow him
in faithful obedience to your commands;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive 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 our Redeemer show us compassion and love. Amen.

St Joseph of Nazareth

March 19

Holy Day

Today we honour Saint Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth who was husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus Christ.

The little we know about Joseph comes to us in the opening chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Both evangelists present him as a truly righteous man who observed the Law of Moses in all his dealings. According to Matthew, Joseph's godliness in keeping the Law made him hesitate to take Mary as his wife, when he learned that she was already pregnant. His reluctance was overcome by the vision of an angel, who told him that the child in the womb of his betrothed was to be the Saviour of Israel. This episode suggested that righteousness under the Law of Moses was to be fulfilled and surpassed by the coming of Christ; and Joseph's obedience to the angelic vision revealed the true fulfillment of his own godliness as a Jew.

Both evangelists make Joseph a descendent of the royal house of David, though in his day the fact that he followed a trade meant that his branch of the family had become impoverished.

Still, Joseph's genealogy entitled Jesus to be considered heir of David and rightful bearer of the title, "King of the Jews." In the popular literature of the Middle Ages, Joseph was often portrayed as a comical old man befuddled by God and the Blessed Virgin. A number of influential spiritual leaders reacted against this portrayal, and well before the sixteenth century the figure of Joseph had regained both dignity and the serious devotion of the faithful. The Roman Catholic Church has consistently fostered this trend ever since, and in this century even appointed the First of May as the feast of Joseph the Worker.

He is considered the patron saint not only of carpenters but also of all who make their living and provide for their families by means of manual labour.

Credits:

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