

Daily Prayer

William Law

Wednesday, April 9, 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

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3.7-14

The Psalm

Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦
and all that is within me bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦
and forget not all his benefits;

Who forgives all your sins ♦
and heals all your infirmities;

Who redeems your life from the Pit ♦
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;

Who satisfies you with good things, ♦
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Psalm 103.1-5

The Gospel Reading

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

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 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, ♦
imploping 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,

you kindled the flame of your love

in the heart of William Law

and made him a shining light and sure guide

in calling many to the devout and holy life.

Grant us so to practise

the rule and discipline of faith,

that we walk in the ways of your love

as children of the light;

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 our Redeemer show us compassion and love. Amen.

William Law

April 9

Priest and Spiritual Leader, 1761—Commemoration

Today we commemorate William Law, an eighteenth-century English mystic whose writings offered spiritual guidance to people of many different classes.

Soon after ordination as a deacon in 1711 he broke away from the Church of England on a matter of conscience and joined a group known as the Non-jurors. But he continued to be interested in the life of the established Church and made a name for himself as a defender of orthodox teachings against rationalism.

He had a gift for clean, readable prose, and his pen-portraits were both witty and full of insight. These talents were revealed at their best in a book entitled *A Serious Call to the Devout and Holy Life*, which was not a controversial work but a spiritual guide. Published in 1728, it became his most popular work and nourished many generations of Anglicans in their practice of Christian piety.

The proceeds from this work enabled Law to retire to his family estate in Northhamptonshire, where he devoted the last twenty-five years of his life to the study of mysticism and good works among his neighbours. Though he never renounced his orders as a Non-juring priest, he returned to the Church of England after his retirement and attended its services until his death in the year 1761.

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

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