

Daily Prayer

Marie de l'Incarnation

Wednesday, April 30, 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.

In your resurrection, O Christ

let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

The First Reading

To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see a branch of an almond tree.” Then the LORD said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it.”

Jeremiah 1.2-12

The Psalm

Bless our God, O you peoples; ♦
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
Who holds our souls in life ♦
and suffers not our feet to slip.
For you, O God, have proved us; ♦
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare; ♦
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; ♦
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.
I will come into your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows, ♦
which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

Psalm 66.7-12

The Gospel Reading

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15.14-17

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

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.
Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry ...
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
**in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always.
Amen.**

Our prayers conclude

God of mercy,
who called and strengthened your servant Marie
in visions and the mystery of prayer
to nurture your people in New France,
grant us so to cherish her example

that we may not rest until we have done your will,
and never cease from prayer
until this age passes over to your kingdom
and we behold your glory;
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 the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Amen.

Marie de l'Incarnation

April 30

Educator and Spiritual Teacher in New France, 1672—Commemoration

Marie de l'Incarnation was a member of the Ursuline Order who arrived at Quebec City in 1639. She had come in obedience to a vision which told her “to go to Canada to build a house for Jesus and Mary.” Over the next thirty years she fulfilled this task by setting up a school for young women of all races, and by establishing the first self-governing congregation of nuns in Canada.

Marie possessed many practical talents, and they were put to the test many times — when the Iroquois war reached the very walls of her convent; when the convent itself was completely destroyed by fire; when merchants tried to cheat her; and when the first bishop in New France tried to tell her that he knew better than she did what was best for nuns living in the wilderness.

In all these trials Marie displayed courage, intelligence, an unshakable sense of divine purpose, and even a sense of humour.

But she was more than a good administrator. She was also gifted with mystical visions which revealed to her the loving relations within the most holy Trinity; and all her life she struggled to translate her interior experiences into care for others, so that they might share in the same love to which her visions pointed.

Marie knew the cost of loving Christ above all else. As a young widow in France, she had given up her only child, an eleven year- old boy, in order to follow her vocation as a nun. The pain of that separation remained with her, though she was certain that she had acted in obedience to God's will for her. Her son eventually became a monk himself, and they kept in touch by writing to one another back and forth across the Atlantic. Marie came to feel that she had been given back to her son on a level which would not have been possible if she had not followed her vocation.

And so we honour Marie de l'Incarnation not only as a founder of the Church in Canada, but also as a mystic who possessed the gifts of a true spiritual mother, able to nurture her own son and the children of New France in the ways of the love of Christ.

Credits:

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The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: Daily Prayer © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

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