

Daily Prayer

Bernard Mizeki

Wednesday, 18 June, 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 God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord
and teach me your paths.

The First Reading

“Take courage, my children, cry to God,
and he will deliver you from the power and hand of the
enemy.

For I have put my hope in the Everlasting to save you,
and joy has come to me from the Holy One,
because of the mercy that will soon come to you
from your everlasting savior.

For I sent you out with sorrow and weeping,
but God will give you back to me with joy and gladness
forever.

For as the neighbors of Zion have now seen your capture,
so they soon will see your salvation by God,
which will come to you with great glory
and with the splendor of the Everlasting.

Baruch 4.21-24

The Psalm

I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him.

The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of hell took hold of me; ♦
by grief and sorrow was I held.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: ♦
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; ♦
our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the simple; ♦
I was brought very low and he saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, ♦
for the Lord has been gracious to you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, ♦
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord ♦
in the land of the living.

Psalm 116.1-8

The Gospel Reading

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body and after that can do nothing more. But I will show you whom to fear: fear the one who, after killing, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear that one! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your

head are all numbered. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you will answer or what you are to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.”

Luke 12.4-12

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

Almighty God,
your servant Bernard Mizeki
gladly brought the word of salvation
to a people that did not know him
and in obedience to Christ surrendered his life

for the sake of those committed to his care.
Grant that, after his blessed example,
your Church may ever seek to impart
that power of love and forgiveness,
once for all made perfect
in the passion of your Son Jesus Christ;
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 grant to the world justice, truth and peace.
Amen.

Bernard Mizeki

June 18

Catechist in Zimbabwe, Martyr, 1896—Memorial

Bernard Mi-ze'-ki is the Anglican Protomartyr of Southern Africa. He began work as a catechist among the Mashona people of Zimbabwe in 1891. Five years later, when the Mashonas rose up against the British, Bernard had ample opportunity to escape. Instead, he chose to remain with his congregation.

On the night of June 17, 1896, he was assaulted and mortally wounded by warriors from the village where he had his mission. He managed to crawl to a nearby hillside. Early the next morning, as Bernard's wife and another woman approached his hiding place, they were frightened by an unearthly sound, "like many wings of great birds," and by a dazzling light which moved toward the spot where Bernard lay. When the two women finally had the courage to go to him, Bernard's body was gone without a trace.

From that day to this, Anglicans from all over southern Africa have made pilgrimages to the site of his martyrdom, in order to offer their prayers and petitions in the house of so great a witness for Christ.

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