

Daily Prayer

Jeremy Taylor

Wednesday, August 13, 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

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is worthless? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and by works faith was brought to completion. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to

him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

James 2.14-26

The Psalm

Blessed are those whose way is pure, ♦
who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies ♦
and seek him with their whole heart,

Those who do no wickedness, ♦
but walk in his ways.

You, O Lord, have charged ♦
that we should diligently keep your commandments.

O that my ways were made so direct ♦
that I might keep your statutes.

Then should I not be put to shame, ♦
because I have regard for all your commandments.

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, ♦
when I have learned your righteous judgements.

I will keep your statutes; ♦
O forsake me not utterly.

Psalm 119.1-8

The Gospel Reading

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.17-20

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 Lord's Anointed

The Lord has anointed me
and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ♦
because he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, ♦
to bind up the broken-hearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives, ♦
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, ♦
to comfort all who mourn,

To give them a garland instead of ashes, ♦
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit,

That they may be called oaks of righteousness, ♦
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

For as the earth puts forth her blossom, ♦
and as seeds in the garden spring up,

So shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise ♦
blossom before all the nations.

You shall be called priests of the Lord; ♦
they shall speak of you as ministers of our God.

Isaiah 61.1-3, 11, 6a

*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.*

The Lord has anointed me
and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.

*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

O God,
whose days are without end
and whose mercies cannot be numbered,
make us, with your servant Jeremy Taylor,
deeply sensible of the duties of love
and the cost of our salvation,
that we may walk in paths of holiness and righteousness
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **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 Christ our Saviour give us peace.
Amen.

Jeremy Taylor

13 August

Bishop of Down and Connor, Spiritual Teacher, 1667 - Memorial

In the middle of the seventeenth century the Church of England suffered greatly from civil war and revolution, and many of its people sought guides who could help them find spiritual order in their own lives. Today we remember the finest of these Anglican spiritual teachers, a bishop named Jeremy Taylor.

Taylor had been a priest for nine years when the English Civil War broke out in 1642. He joined the side of King Charles and served as a chaplain in the royal forces. Towards the end of the war he was captured and briefly imprisoned; on his release he found refuge at the house of the Earl of Carbery in Wales. Here he acted as spiritual director to the earl's wife and wrote some of his best works. He also experimented with the liturgy and composed one of the first "alternative rites" in Anglican history.

In 1658 Taylor moved to Ireland and was lecturing there when the monarchy and the Church were restored two years later. As a reward for his loyalty he was made bishop of two dioceses in northern Ireland, Down and Connor. Taylor had a very hard time because many of his clergy held presbyterian views and refused to acknowledge the authority of any bishop.

His conflicts with these clergy wore down his health, and he died after a short illness on this date in 1667. Almost all of Taylor's writings were designed to help people to develop and keep a rule of spiritual practice. He understood how hard such a task can be, and he did not seek to make it seem easier than it is. He taught that Christians have a fearsome personal responsibility for choosing the way of Christ in all their actions. He also believed that holiness involved training in the deeper and more difficult rule of love — love for God in prayer and love for other humans in the works of everyday life. In the end, Taylor's strictness as a spiritual teacher had a purpose of joy — such joy as can be tasted only by those who accept its cost and practise its duties.

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