

# Daily Prayer

*Monnica*

*Wednesday, August 27, 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

She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

*1 Samuel 1.10-11, 20*

## The Psalm

The Lord has been mindful of us and he will bless us; ♦  
may he bless the house of Israel;  
may he bless the house of Aaron;

May he bless those who fear the Lord, ♦  
both small and great together.

May the Lord increase you more and more, ♦  
you and your children after you.

May you be blest by the Lord, ♦  
the maker of heaven and earth.

*Psalm 115.12-15*

## **The Gospel Reading**

Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

*John 16.20-24*

*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,  
who heard the prayers  
and gathered up the loving tears of Monnica  
for the conversion of her child Augustine,  
deepen our devotion, we pray,  
and help us to work in accordance with your will,  
that we may bring others,  
even our own kindred,  
to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ;  
who is alive 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.**

## **Monnica**

*27 August*

*Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 87 - Commemoration*

Today we remember Monnica, a woman of fourth-century North Africa and the mother of Augustine of Hippo. She was a devout Christian, regular in her prayers and careful in raising her children to be Christians as well. However, her eldest son Augustine wandered away from the Church in his youth and came under the spell of an outlaw sect known as the Manichees. Monnica refused to give up on her son and tried to get others to argue him out of his infatuation with Manichean teachings. She once approached a bishop who told her that, given time, her son would certainly outgrow his false opinions.

But Monnica would not be soothed and continued her entreaties. The bishop finally groaned: "Woman, go away from me now! As sure as you live, it is impossible that a son of such tears should perish!"

Augustine was embarrassed by his mother, and when he decided to leave North Africa and seek his fortune in Italy, he tricked her so that she would not come with him. He ought to have known her better, for she eventually showed up on his doorstep. By that time Augustine had at last renounced the Manichees and was slowly moving back towards the Church. Monnica had the supreme joy of beholding the fulfillment of her prayers at the Easter Vigil of the year 387, when Augustine was baptized at the basilica of Milan.

Shortly afterwards he decided to return to North Africa with his mother, but while they were waiting for a ship to take them across the Mediterranean Monnica fell ill. It was soon clear that she was dying, and Augustine became anxious, knowing she had always wanted to be buried in North Africa. She told him not to worry, saying: "Nothing is far from God; I need not fear that he will know where to raise me up at the end of the world." A few days later she died, at peace with God, the Church, and her son.



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