

Prayers of the Day

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, you gave us your holy law to live by. When we obey it, we please you and our lives are in order. When we disobey it, we lose our connection to you. We ask you to plant in us a thirst for your law, so that we desire to obey it every day of our life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we are subject to the laws of this land. Inspire all of our government officials to make justice their highest priority instead of their own personal gain. Move the leaders of all the countries on earth to treat their citizens with justice too, especially in places torn apart by war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you called us to be your church. You gave us this congregation to nurture us in the faith. Teach us to support the mission of the church, so that we will share the gospel with other people, make wise decisions in our council meetings, and become a light shining with your love for everyone to see. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you care for the sick and suffering as much as for the healthy and strong. We ask you to look with mercy on everyone who is sick, dying, in danger, or distressed (*especially...*). Bring them to health and happiness once more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, through Jesus Christ you showed us that there is life after death in the resurrection of the dead. We thank you for those who lived and died before us. Raise us to share with them in eternal life in your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TODAY'S LESSONS

The Ten Commandments: 1-3

Prayer of the Day: Dear Lord God, you commanded us to have no other God before you. Prevent us from taking your name in vain. Help us honor the sabbath day and keep it holy. And always turn our hearts and minds to love and obey you alone, through the merits of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Deuteronomy:

Moses said: The LORD told me to give you these laws and teachings, so you can obey them in the land he is giving you. Soon you will cross the Jordan River and take that land. And if you and your descendants want to live a long time, you must always worship the LORD and obey his laws.

Pay attention, Israel! Our ancestors worshiped the LORD, and he promised to give us this land that is rich with milk and honey. Be careful to obey him, and you will become a successful and powerful nation.

Listen, Israel! The LORD our God is the only true God! So love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and strength.

Memorize his laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning.

Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them. Write these laws on the door frames of your homes and on your town gates.

Psalm 1:

God blesses those people who refuse evil advice and won't follow sinners or join in sneering at God.

Instead, the Law of the LORD makes them happy, and they think about it day and night.

They are like trees growing beside a stream, trees that produce fruit in season and always have leaves.

Those people succeed in everything they do.

That isn't true of those who are evil, because they are like straw blown by the wind.

Sinners won't have an excuse on the day of judgment, and they won't have a place with the people of God.

The LORD protects everyone who follows him, but the wicked follow a road that leads to ruin.

A reading from First Corinthians:

St. Paul writes: There is only one God. Many things in heaven and on earth are called gods and lords, but none of them really are gods or lords. We have only one God, and he is the Father. He created everything, and we live for him. Jesus Christ is our only Lord. Everything was made by him, and by him life was given to us.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

After Jesus had made the Sadducees look foolish, the Pharisees heard about it and got together.

One of them was an expert in the Jewish Law. So he tried to test Jesus by asking, "Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, Love others as much as you love yourself. All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments."