

Prayers of the Day

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

Dear God, you commanded us baptize all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Bless all those who witness to their neighbors, all missionaries, and all teachers of the faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear God, we put our trust not in the water of our baptism alone, but in your promise attached to the water. We know that in baptism we died with Christ and rose again to new life, through the forgiveness of our sins. For this we thank and praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear God, although we were only baptized once, every day we die to sin and rise again to new life. Make us new creatures again today, and tomorrow, and every day afterwards, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear God, you are the true source of consolation for all who are sick and suffering. We commend to your care (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear God, we remember before you today all those who died in battle. We thank you for those who you preserved from death during times of war. Grant us peace on the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear God, forgive us our sins, rescue us from death, and bring us to life everlasting with all your saints in heaven. 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

Baptism

Prayer of the Day: Dear Father in heaven, you gathered us together and made us your church through our baptism, which binds us to the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Keep us faithful to our baptismal vows now and always, by the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

A reading from Genesis:

Noah was six hundred years old when the water under the earth started gushing out everywhere. The sky opened like windows, and rain poured down for forty days and nights. All this began on the seventeenth day of the second month of the year. On that day Noah and his wife went into the boat with their three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives. They took along every kind of animal, tame and wild, including the birds. Noah took a male and a female of every living creature with him, just as God had told him to do. And when they were all in the boat, God closed the door.

For forty days the rain poured down without stopping. And the water became deeper and deeper, until the boat started floating high above the ground. Finally, the mighty flood was so deep that even the highest mountain peaks were almost twenty-five feet below the surface of the water. Not a bird, animal, reptile, or human was left alive anywhere on earth. The LORD destroyed everything that breathed. Nothing was left alive except Noah and the others in the boat. A hundred fifty days later, the water started going down.

Psalm 29:

All of you angels in heaven,
honor the glory and power of the LORD!

**Honor the wonderful name of the LORD,
and worship the LORD most holy and glorious.**

The voice of the LORD echoes over the oceans.
The glorious LORD God thunders
above the roar of the raging sea,

and his voice is mighty and marvelous.

The voice of the LORD destroys the cedar trees;
the LORD shatters cedars on Mount Lebanon.

**God makes Mount Lebanon skip like a calf
and Mount Hermon jump like a wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD makes lightning flash
and the desert tremble.

**And because of the LORD,
the desert near Kadesh shivers and shakes.**

The voice of the LORD makes deer give birth before their time.
Forests are stripped of leaves,
and the temple is filled with shouts of praise.

The LORD rules on his throne, king of the flood forever.

Pray that our LORD will make us strong and give us peace.

A reading from Ephesians:

St. Paul writes: As a prisoner of the Lord, I beg you to live in a way that is worthy of the people God has chosen to be his own. Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other. Try your best to let God's Spirit keep your hearts united. Do this by living at peace. All of you are part of the same body. There is only one Spirit of God, just as you were given one hope when you were chosen to be God's people. We have only one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. There is one God who is the Father of all people. Not only is

God above all others, but he works by using all of us, and he lives in all of us.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Jesus' eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee, where Jesus had told them to meet him. They saw him and worshiped him, but some of them doubted. Jesus came to them and said: "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."