

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 Jesus Christ, you gave us the sacrament of the altar so that we could feed on you, the Word of God, our whole lives long. Help us put our trust in your promise to be with us now and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our lives are beset by sin. Yet while we were still sinners, you died for us. Now through communion you forgive us all our sins. Let us come to the table expecting to find the life and salvation you offer. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you called us to be your church. Let everything we do, from how we share the Lord's Supper together, to how we speak to each other, to how we spend our money, reflect that our faith is in you above all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you healed the sick and raised the dead. Heal those who are sick, and raise up those who are dying (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, when we partake of your body and blood, we are joined to you. Now, because you are risen from the dead, we will rise too. Remember us in mercy on judgment day. 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 Lord's Supper

Prayer of the Day: Lord Jesus Christ, you give us your own body and blood at the holy supper. We ask that it would strengthen us in faith towards you and in fervent love towards one another. **Amen.**

A reading from Genesis:

King Melchizedek of Salem was a priest of God Most High. He brought out some bread and wine and said to Abram: "I bless you in the name of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. All praise belongs to God Most High for helping you defeat your enemies." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

Psalm 39:

I told myself, "I'll be careful not to sin by what I say, and I'll muzzle my mouth when evil people are near."

**I kept completely silent,
but it did no good, and I hurt even worse.**

I felt a fire burning inside, and the more I thought, the more it burned, until at last I said:

"Please, LORD, show me my future. Will I soon be gone?"

You made my life short,
so brief that the time means nothing to you.

"Human life is but a breath, and it disappears like a shadow.

**Our struggles are senseless; we store up more and more,
without ever knowing who will get it all.**

"What am I waiting for? I depend on you, Lord!

Save me from my sins. Don't let fools sneer at me.

You treated me like this, and I kept silent, not saying a word.

“Won’t you stop punishing me? You have worn me down.

You punish us severely because of our sins.

Like a moth, you destroy what we treasure most.

We are as frail as a breath.

“Listen, LORD, to my prayer!

My eyes are flooded with tears, as I pray to you.

**I am merely a stranger visiting in your home
as my ancestors did.**

Stop being angry with me and let me smile again
before I am dead and gone.”

A reading from First Corinthians:

St. Paul writes: Your worship services do you more harm than good. I am certainly not going to praise you for this. I am told that you can’t get along with each other when you worship, and I am sure that some of what I have heard is true. You are bound to argue with each other, but it is easy to see which of you have God’s approval. When you meet together, you don’t really celebrate the Lord’s Supper. You even start eating before everyone gets to the meeting, and some of you go hungry, while others get drunk. Don’t you have homes where you can eat and drink? Do you hate God’s church? Do you want to embarrass people who don’t have anything? What can I say to you? I certainly cannot praise you.

I have already told you what the Lord Jesus did on the night he was betrayed. And it came from the Lord himself. He took some bread in his hands. Then after he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this and remember me.” After the meal, Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and said, “This is my blood, and with it God makes his new testament with you. Drink this and remember

me.” The Lord meant that when you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you tell about his death until he comes.

But if you eat the bread and drink the wine in a way that isn’t worthy of the Lord, you sin against his body and blood. That’s why you must examine the way you eat and drink. If you fail to understand that you are the body of the Lord, you will condemn yourselves by the way you eat and drink. That’s why many of you are sick and weak and why a lot of others have died. If we carefully judge ourselves, we won’t be punished. But when the Lord judges and punishes us, he does it to keep us from being condemned with the rest of the world. My dear friends, you should wait until everyone gets there before you start eating. If you really are hungry, you can eat at home. Then you won’t condemn yourselves when you meet together.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark:

During the Passover meal, Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed the bread and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples and said, “Take this. This is my body.” Jesus picked up a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his disciples, and they all drank some. Then he said, “This is my blood, which is poured out for many people, and with it God makes a new testament. From now on I will not drink any wine, until I drink new wine in God’s kingdom.” Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.