

Prayers of the Day

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

Heavenly Father, you are our true Father. Help us to respect the earthly fathers and mothers you have given us. Help all fathers and mothers to treat their children of all ages with kindness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our true king. You treat us, your subjects, with mercy and gentleness. Teach us to treat others like you have treated us. Teach all leaders of the earth to rule like you do. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, you are the source of the true love in our hearts. Drive away the impure and false loves. Replace them with pure and proper loves. Give especially to husbands and wives the strength to love and honor each other always. Comfort those who are lonely, widowed, single, divorced, or separated, so that they will know both divine and human love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, one God, you are the source of life. Heal those whose lives are endangered by sickness, approaching death, or unsafe circumstances (*especially...*). Help us find the opportunity to serve these and all people in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Risen and ascended Lord, in you we have confidence of life after death. Thank you for all the saints we have known and loved. Join us to their company when the time comes. 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: 4–6

Prayer of the Day: Dear God, teach us always to respect our parents, protect our neighbor, and be faithful in marriage. Amen.

A reading from Exodus:

God said to the people of Israel: I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves. Do not worship any god except me.

Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth. Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the LORD your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations. But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.

Do not misuse my name. I am the LORD your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name. Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me. You have six days when you can do your work, but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day – not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns. In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.

Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you. Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else.

Psalm 19:

The heavens keep telling the wonders of God,
and the skies declare what he has done.

**Each day informs the following day;
each night announces to the next.**

They don't speak a word,
and there is never the sound of a voice.

**Yet their message reaches all the earth,
and it travels around the world.**

In the heavens a tent is set up for the sun.

It rises like a bridegroom
and gets ready like a hero eager to run a race.

It travels all the way across the sky.

Nothing hides from its heat.

The Law of the LORD is perfect; it gives us new life.
His teachings last forever, and they give wisdom
to ordinary people.

The LORD's instruction is right; it makes our hearts glad.

His commands shine brightly, and they give us light.

Worshiping the LORD is sacred;
he will always be worshiped.

All of his decisions are correct and fair.

**They are worth more than the finest gold
and are sweeter than honey from a honeycomb.**

By your teachings, Lord, I am warned;
by obeying them, I am greatly rewarded.

None of us know our faults.

Forgive me when I sin without knowing it.

Don't let me do wrong on purpose, Lord,
or let sin have control over my life.

Then I will be innocent, and not guilty of some terrible fault.

**Let my words and my thoughts be pleasing to you, LORD,
because you are my mighty rock and my protector.**

A reading from Ephesians:

Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents. The first commandment with a promise says, "Obey your father and your mother, and you will have a long and happy life."

Parents, don't be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Jesus said: You know that our ancestors were told, "Do not murder" and "A murderer must be brought to trial." But I promise you that if you are angry with someone, you will have to stand trial. If you call someone a fool, you will be taken to court. And if you say that someone is worthless, you will be in danger of the fires of hell. So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God.

Before you are dragged into court, make friends with the person who has accused you of doing wrong. If you don't, you will be handed over to the judge and then to the officer who will put you in jail. I promise you that you will not get out until you have paid the last cent you owe.

You know the commandment which says, "Be faithful in marriage." But I tell you that if you look at another woman and want her, you are already unfaithful in your thoughts. If your right eye causes you to sin, poke it out and throw it away. It is better to lose one part of your body, than for your whole body to end up in hell. If your right hand causes you to sin, chop it off and throw it away! It is better to lose one part of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.