

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 made everything in the earth, and gave it to us your people. Help us to respect the property of other people, so that we are not tempted to steal it from them or swindle them out of it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, a reputation is as fragile as glass, yet we treat the reputations of others as if they were unbreakable. We gossip, we judge, and we condemn. We don't think about the words that come out of our mouths. Teach us to be mindful of what we say, so that we don't hurt other people's feelings or destroy their reputations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, so often we are discontented with what you have given us. We look at what someone else has and want it for ourselves. Give us the grace to be content with what we have. Shut off the desires that make us dissatisfied. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the world is always in need of your guidance. Give wisdom to rulers, generosity to the wealthy, sustenance to the poor, and faith to the church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you alone are the source of life and health. Give healing and protection to all those sick or in danger (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you alone can raise the dead to life again. We praise you for the lives of the saints who have gone before, and long for the day we will be reunited to them. 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: 7-10

Prayer of the Day: Dear God, teach us today and every day to keep all your commandments, through the power of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from Deuteronomy:

Moses called together the people of Israel and said: Today I am telling you the laws and teachings that you must follow, so listen carefully. The LORD our God made an agreement with our nation at Mount Sinai. That agreement wasn't only with our ancestors but with us, who are here today. The LORD himself spoke to you out of the fire, but you were afraid of the fire and refused to go up the mountain. So I spoke with the LORD for you, then I told you that he had said: 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 and worship idols, 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. Show respect for the Sabbath Day – it belongs to me. You have six days when you can do your work, but the seventh day of the week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day – not you, your children, your oxen or donkeys or any other animal, not even those foreigners who live in your towns. And don't make your slaves do any work. This special day of rest will remind you that

I reached out my mighty arm and rescued you from slavery in Egypt.

Respect your father and mother, and you will live a long and successful life 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 wife or husband, house, land, slaves, oxen, donkeys, or anything else.

Psalm 16:

Protect me, LORD God! I run to you for safety,

and I have said, "Only you are my Lord!

Every good thing I have is a gift from you."

Your people are wonderful,
and they make me happy,

but worshipers of other gods will have much sorrow.

**I refuse to offer sacrifices of blood to those gods
or worship in their name.**

You, LORD, are all I want!

You are my choice, and you keep me safe.

You make my life pleasant, and my future is bright.

I praise you, LORD, for being my guide.

Even in the darkest night, your teachings fill my mind.

I will always look to you,

as you stand beside me and protect me from fear.

With all my heart, I will celebrate, and I can safely rest.

I am your chosen one.

You won't leave me in the grave or let my body decay.

You have shown me the path to life,

and you make me glad by being near to me.

Sitting at your right side, I will always be joyful.

A reading from James:

By putting a bit into the mouth of a horse, we can turn the horse in different directions. It takes strong winds to move a large sailing ship, but the captain uses only a small rudder to make it go in any direction. Our tongues are small too, and yet they brag about big things.

It takes only a spark to start a forest fire! The tongue is like a spark. It is an evil power that dirties the rest of the body and sets a person's entire life on fire with flames that come from hell itself. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and sea creatures can be tamed and have been tamed. But our tongues get out of control. They are restless and evil, and always spreading deadly poison.

My dear friends, with our tongues we speak both praises and curses. We praise our Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right. Can clean water and dirty water both flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs? Does fresh water come from a well full of salt water?

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Jesus said: Don't suppose that I came to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I did not come to do away with them, but to give them their full meaning. Heaven and earth may disappear. But I promise you that not even a period or comma will ever disappear from the Law. Everything written in it must happen. If you reject even the least important command in the Law and teach others to do the same, you will be the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. But if you obey and teach others its commands, you will have an important place in the kingdom. You must obey God's commands better than the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law obey them. If you don't, I promise you that you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.