

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 saw that we were lost in our sins, and you didn't want to lose us. You sent your Suffering Servant to take our punishment for us, so that we could live with you instead of dying forever. For this great mercy we thank and praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you willingly took on human flesh for our sake. You bought us back from the devil, not with silver or gold, but with your holy and precious blood and your innocent suffering and death. Free us from our sins today and always through your great sacrifice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, you have given us the ministry of reconciliation. Now that we are set free from our sins through Christ, we can confess our sins and forgive each other. Let every part of our lives show that we are reconciled to the Father, by the Son, in your power. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you are the source of life, and you alone can conquer death. Bless, protect, and heal everyone who is sick, facing death, or in danger (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

One God, you are our hope. You give meaning to our lives and to our deaths. Raise us from death to join your saints in the company of 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

The Creed: Second Article

Prayer of the Day: Lord Jesus Christ, you took upon yourself all of our sins. You suffered terribly on the cross in order to make us pure once more. Help us always to be mindful of your sacrifice; let it change our hearts and make us new creatures. **Amen.**

A reading from Isaiah:

Has anyone believed us or seen the mighty power of the LORD in action? Like a young plant or a root that sprouts in dry ground, the servant grew up obeying the LORD. He wasn't some handsome king. Nothing about the way he looked made him attractive to us. He was hated and rejected; his life was filled with sorrow and terrible suffering. No one wanted to look at him. We despised him and said, "He is a nobody!" He suffered and endured great pain for us, but we thought his suffering was punishment from God. He was wounded and crushed because of our sins; by taking our punishment, he made us completely well. All of us were like sheep that had wandered off. We had each gone our own way, but the LORD gave him the punishment we deserved. He was painfully abused, but he did not complain. He was silent like a lamb being led to the butcher, as quiet as a sheep having its wool cut off. He was condemned to death without a fair trial. Who could have imagined what would happen to him? His life was taken away because of the sinful things my people had done. He wasn't dishonest or violent, but he was buried in a tomb of cruel and rich people. The LORD decided his servant would suffer as a sacrifice to take away the sin and guilt of others. Now the servant will live to see his own descendants. He did

everything the LORD had planned. By suffering, the servant will learn the true meaning of obeying the LORD. Although he is innocent, he will take the punishment for the sins of others, so that many of them will no longer be guilty. The LORD will reward him with honor and power for sacrificing his life. Others thought he was a sinner, but he suffered for our sins and asked God to forgive us.

Psalm 22:

My God, my God, why have you deserted me?
Why are you so far away?
Won't you listen to my groans and come to my rescue?

**I cry out day and night, but you don't answer,
and I can never rest.**

Yet you are the holy God,
ruling from your throne and praised by Israel.

**Our ancestors trusted you,
and you rescued them.**

When they cried out for help, you saved them,
and you did not let them down when they depended on you.

**But I am merely a worm, far less than human,
and I am hated and rejected by people everywhere.**

Everyone who sees me makes fun and sneers.

They shake their heads and say,

**"Trust the LORD! If you are his favorite,
let him protect you and keep you safe."**

A reading from Second Corinthians:

God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace. We were sent to speak for Christ, and God is begging you to listen to our message. We speak for Christ and sincerely ask you to make peace with God. Christ never sinned! But God made Christ into sin for us, so that Christ could make us acceptable to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark:

About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until around three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said, "He is calling for Elijah." One of them ran and grabbed a sponge. After he had soaked it in wine, he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus. He said, "Let's wait and see if Elijah will come and take him down!" Jesus shouted and then died. At once the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom. A Roman army officer was standing in front of Jesus. When the officer saw how Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James bought some spices to put on Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just as the sun was coming up, they went to the tomb. On their way, they were asking one another, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" But when they looked, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. And it was a huge stone! The women went into the tomb, and on the right side they saw a young man in a white robe sitting there. They were alarmed. The man said, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was nailed to a cross. God has raised him to life, and he isn't here. You can see the place where they put his body. Now go and tell his disciples, and especially Peter, that he will go ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." When the women ran from the tomb, they were confused and shaking all over. They were too afraid to tell anyone what had happened.