

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, your will is the only perfectly good will. Our wills are corrupted by sin. So we ask that *your* will be done instead of ours. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you generously give daily bread to all people, whether or not they deserve it. We thank you for all the things you have given us, not only food and drink but shelter, work, family, and friends. Make us worthy of these gifts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we are eager for you to forgive us, but we are not always eager to forgive others. Search our hearts and help us to see who it is we have refused to forgive. Give us the same mercy you have, so we can forgive all those who have sinned against us. And then, we pray, forgive us our sins, too. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we are not made right with you by our own efforts, but only by faith in Jesus Christ our Savior, who gave his life on the cross for our sins and rose again for our justification. Do not take this faith from us, but strengthen it day by day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we entrust to your care all who are sick, weary, in danger, or approaching death (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, raise us on the last day to live eternally with you and all your saints, for whom we give you thanks. 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

Lord's Prayer: Petitions 3, 4, 5

Prayer of the Day: Heavenly Father, you are a mighty fortress. In you we can take refuge and be safe. Make us faithful to your holy Word, whatever the cost, knowing that you alone can save us. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A reading from Proverbs:

There are two things, Lord, I want you to do for me before I die: Make me absolutely honest and don't let me be too poor or too rich. Give me just what I need. If I have too much to eat, I might forget about you; if I don't have enough, I might steal and disgrace your name.

Psalm 46:

God is our mighty fortress,
always ready to help in times of trouble.

**And so, we won't be afraid! Let the earth tremble
and the mountains tumble into the deepest sea.**

Let the ocean roar and foam,
and its raging waves shake the mountains.

**A river and its streams bring joy to the city,
which is the sacred home of God Most High.**

God is in that city, and it won't be shaken.
He will help it at dawn.

Nations rage! Kingdoms fall!

But at the voice of God the earth itself melts.

The LORD All-Powerful is with us.

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

**Come! See the fearsome things
the LORD has done on earth.**

God brings wars to an end all over the world.

He breaks the arrows, shatters the spears, and burns the shields.

Our God says, "Calm down, and learn that I am God!

All nations on earth will honor me."

The LORD All-Powerful is with us.

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Jesus said, "You should pray like this: 'Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name. Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven. Give us our food for today. Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others. Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.' For if you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you."

A reading from James:

If you are having trouble, you should pray. And if you are feeling good, you should sing praises.

If you are sick, ask the church leaders to come and pray for you. Ask them to put olive oil on you in the name of the Lord. If you have faith when you pray for sick people, they will get well. The Lord will heal them, and if they have sinned, he will forgive them.

If you have sinned, you should tell each other what you have done. Then you can pray for one another and be healed.

The prayer of an innocent person is powerful, and it can help a lot. Elijah was just as human as we are, and for three and a half years his prayers kept the rain from falling. But when he did pray for rain, it fell from the skies and made the crops grow.

My friends, if any followers have wandered away from the truth, you should try to lead them back. If you turn sinners from the wrong way, you will save them from death, and many of their sins will be forgiven.