

## Prayers of the Day

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

Father in heaven, you tempt no one to sin, but temptations still surround us. Give us the strength and courage to resist these temptations, putting ourselves in your hands. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, through your death on the cross you faced all the sin and evil of the world. You overcame it through your resurrection. Spare us from the world's evil so that we will not be overcome by it, and bring us at last to your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, fill us with love and praise for our God, for to you belongs the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Give us the desire to glorify God every day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, the world is yours and everything in it. Have mercy on your children who are sick, suffering, lonely, in danger, or any kind of need (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

One God, we remember before you today all the saints who have died. We entrust them to your care, knowing that you are merciful and loving. As you raise them to new life, raise us too. 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 6, 7, and Doxology

**Prayer of the Day:** Lord God, you raised Jesus from the dead so that through him all your saints may be raised to live in your eternal glory. Let us join in that communion of saints, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## A reading from Genesis:

The snake was sneakier than any of the other wild animals that the LORD God had made. One day it came to the woman and asked, "Did God tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?"

The woman answered, "God said we could eat fruit from any tree in the garden, except the one in the middle. He told us not to eat fruit from that tree or even to touch it. If we do, we will die."

"No, you won't!" the snake replied. "God understands what will happen on the day you eat fruit from that tree. You will see what you have done, and you will know the difference between right and wrong, just as God does."

The woman stared at the fruit. It looked beautiful and tasty. She wanted the wisdom that it would give her, and she ate some of the fruit. Her husband was there with her, so she gave some to him, and he ate it too. Right away they saw what they had done, and they realized they were naked. Then they sewed fig leaves together to make something to cover themselves. Late in the afternoon a breeze began to blow, and the man and woman heard the LORD God walking in the garden. They were frightened and hid behind some trees.

The LORD said, "These people now know the difference between right and wrong, just as we do. But they must not be

allowed to eat fruit from the tree that lets them live forever." So the LORD God sent them out of the Garden of Eden, where they would have to work the ground from which the man had been made. Then God put winged creatures at the entrance to the garden and a flaming, flashing sword to guard the way to the life-giving tree.

### **Psalm 6:**

Don't punish me, LORD,  
or even correct me when you are angry!

**Have pity on me and heal my feeble body.**

**My bones tremble with fear,**  
and I am in deep distress.

How long will it be?

**Turn and come to my rescue.**

**Show your wonderful love and save me, LORD.**

If I die, I cannot praise you or even remember you.

**My groaning has worn me out.**

**At night my bed and pillow are soaked with tears.**

Sorrow has made my eyes dim,  
and my sight has failed because of my enemies.

**You, LORD, heard my crying,**

**and those hateful people had better leave me alone.**

You have answered my prayer and my plea for mercy.

**My enemies will be ashamed and terrified,**

**as they quickly run away in complete disgrace.**

### **A reading from Jude:**

Dear friends, keep building on the foundation of your most holy faith, as the Holy Spirit helps you to pray. And keep in step with God's love, as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to show how kind he is by giving you eternal life. Be helpful to all who may have doubts. Rescue any who need to be saved, as you would rescue someone from a fire. Then with fear in your

own hearts, have mercy on everyone who needs it. But hate even the clothes of those who have been made dirty by their filthy deeds.

Offer praise to God our Savior because of our Lord Jesus Christ! Only God can keep you from falling and make you pure and joyful in his glorious presence. Before time began and now and forevermore, God is worthy of glory, honor, power, and authority. Amen.

### **The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:**

Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when someone finds a treasure hidden in a field and buries it again. A person like that is happy and goes and sells everything in order to buy that field. The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls. After finding a very valuable one, the owner goes and sells everything in order to buy that pearl. The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a net is thrown into a lake and catches all kinds of fish. When the net is full, it is dragged to the shore, and the fishermen sit down to separate the fish. They keep the good ones, but throw the bad ones away. That's how it will be at the end of time. Angels will come and separate the evil people from the ones who have done right. Then those evil people will be thrown into a flaming furnace, where they will cry and grit their teeth in pain." Jesus asked his disciples if they understood all these things. They said, "Yes, we do." So he told them, "Every student of the Scriptures who becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like someone who brings out new and old treasures from the storeroom."