

Midweek Prayer Time – Week 5

*We offer this liturgy for a time of personal prayer,
hoping it will be a time of enrichment and encouragement in challenging times.
May God's peace and blessing be upon you today and each day to come.*



Detail from a Cartoon Sketch – Raphael

Psalm 77: 1-3, 11 - 14 (NRSV)

I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, that he may hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out
without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.
I think of God, and I moan;
I meditate, and my spirit faints.
I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;
I will remember your wonders of old.

I will meditate on all your work,
and muse on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is so great as our God?
You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed Your might
among the peoples.

Prayer

Oh Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same:
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you,
Lord God of our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.
Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,
that freed from the misery of sin and shame
we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Scripture reading from the Gospel of John 6.60 - 71 (NRSV)

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil." He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

*Hold a period of silent following the reading reflecting on the words spoken by Peter
'Lord, to whom can we go?' – use the picture to help reflect.*

Prayers of Intercession

*A time to offer prayers of concern, for local, national or world issues,
for thanks or for whatever is on your heart....*

Lord, we pray for the people we know;
for those we know to be in need of you and your love,
for those aching for your peace,
who truly desire to know more of you,
for those longing for your health-giving,
life-renewing touch and life-changing grace;
for those we name before you now:
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Time for silent prayer, after a period of 2 or 3 minutes silence conclude

We pray for ourselves and for all we must face
in the coming days and months and years of our lives;
for a renewal of our hearts and minds and lives
and for a chance to learn to love ourselves.
May the coming of your Spirit
bring the fire of cleansing and the wind that renews.
Lord have mercy.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer...

Closing Prayer

Living God,
help us, learning from Christ's example,
to use this time of solitude and isolation wisely,
making time to hear your voice
and reflect on your word.
Lord, hear our prayer.
Bless the Lord,
thanks be to God.
Amen.