

Companion Prayer — Wednesdays during Lent 2023

Opening Responses

We cast our burdens upon you, O Lord, **and you will sustain us.**
Create in us clean hearts, O God, **and renew a right spirit within us.**
Cast us not away from your presence, **and take not your Holy Spirit from us.**
O Lord, open our lips, **and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**
O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**
Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful and loving Father, you despise nothing you have made; indeed, we are your beloved children, and you delight in us. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, confident in your steadfast love, may receive from you perfect remission, forgiveness, and healing of our brokenness. Amen.

Silence

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us into abundant life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Psalm

Psalm of the day

Glory to You, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Canticle

The Song of Manasseh

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, *

you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

All things tremble with awe at your presence, *

before your great and mighty power.

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, *

for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful, *

and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness, you have promised forgiveness for repentance *

to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you *

are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, *

because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, *

imploring your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, *

and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, *

according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise, *

and your glory is for ever and ever.

Gospel Reading

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . .

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

...

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silence

Sharing: What spoke to you in today's readings?

Response of Faith

With the whole church, **we affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere, **we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation, **we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purposes of God forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

With confidence and trust in God's steadfast love, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those preparing for baptism and confirmation and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

I invite your intercessions, petitions, and thanksgivings in silence or aloud.

For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Prayer for Guidance (Thomas Merton)

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen

Collect

From Ash Wednesday until the Second Sunday in Lent

God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us through this season, so that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit.
Amen.

The Week of the Second Sunday in Lent

Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, so that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship and whet our thirst for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Week of the Third Sunday in Lent

God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, so that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom. **Amen.**

The Week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent

God of the living, through baptism we pass from the shadow of death to the light of the resurrection. Remain with us and give us hope so that, rejoicing in the gift of the Spirit who gives life to our mortal flesh, we may be clothed with the garment of immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (paraphrase by Lynn Mills)

Trusting in the compassion of God and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray,

Our Creator, ground of all being, holy is your name.
May your Holy Spirit come upon us and cleanse us.
May your will be done, throughout all your creation.
Give us today what we need for *this* day.
Forgive us our failings and shortcomings,
and help us to forgive those who have harmed us.
Save us from trials too hard for us and deliver us from evil.
May you reign in the kingdom, the power,
and the glory of your love, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of steadfast and compassionate love fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. **Amen.**