



Daily Prayer
in
the Christmas Season

Sunday

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O God, make haste to help us.

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with my whole heart;

I will tell of all your marvellous works.

Psalm 9.1

Praise

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

from Gloria in Excelsis

The Word of God

Psalm 113

- 1 Praise the Lord, O sing praises, you that are his servants:
O praise the name of the Lord.
- 2 Let the name of the Lord be blessed:
from this time forward and for ever.
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its going down:
let the name of the Lord be praised.
- 4 The Lord is exalted over all the nations:
and his glory is above the heavens.
- 5 Who can be likened to the Lord our God:
in heaven or upon the earth,
- 6 Who has his dwelling so high:
yet condescends to look on things beneath?
- 7 He raises the lowly from the dust:
and lifts the poor from out of the dungheap;
- 8 He gives them a place among the princes:
even among the princes of his people.
- 9 He causes the barren woman to keep house:
and makes her a joyful mother of children.
Praise the Lord.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

John 1.14, 16-18

Response

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Matthew 5.8

Prayers

Concluding Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
who stooped to raise fallen humanity
through the child bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we, who have seen your glory
 revealed in our human nature
and your love made perfect in our weakness,
may daily be renewed in your image
and conformed to the pattern of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

The Conclusion

May the grace of Christ our Saviour be with us all.
Amen.

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Psalm 87

- 1 He has founded it upon a holy hill:
and the Lord loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
- 2 Glorious things shall be spoken of you:
O Zion, city of our God.
- 3 I might speak of my kindred in Egypt or in Babylon:
in Philistia, Tyre or Nubia, where each was born.
- 4 But of Zion it shall be said:
many were born in her,
he that is Most High has established her.
- 5 When the Lord draws up the record of the nations:
he shall take note where everyone was born.
- 6 And the singers and the dancers together:
shall make their song to your name.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9.2, 6, 7

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The Word of God

Psalm 97

- 1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice
are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 They are ashamed, all those who serve idols
and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements, O God.
- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those that hate evil:
the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.

- 11 Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.'

Matthew 1.20-23

Response

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The Word of God

Psalm 110

- 1 The Lord said to my lord:
 'Sit at my right hand,
 until I make your enemies your footstool.'
- 2 The Lord commits to you the sceptre of your power:
 reign from Zion in the midst of your enemies.
- 3 Noble are you, from the day of your birth
upon the holy hill:
 radiant are you, even from the womb,
 in the morning dew of your youth.
- 4 The Lord has sworn and will not turn back:
 'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'
- 5 The king shall stand at your right hand, O Lord:
 and shatter kings in the day of his wrath.
- 6 Glorious in majesty, he shall judge among the nations:
 and shatter heads over a wide land.
- 7 He shall slake his thirst from the brook beside the way:
 therefore shall he lift up his head.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2.16-20

Response

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The Word of God

Psalm 127

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house:
 their labour is but lost that build it.
- 2 Unless the Lord keeps the city:
 the watchmen watch in vain.
- 3 It is in vain that you rise up early and go so late to rest,
 eating the bread of toil:
 for the Lord bestows honour—and on those whom he loves.
- 4 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord:
 and the fruit of the womb is his gift.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior:
 are the children of one's youth.
- 6 Happy the man who has his quiver full of them:
 he will not be put to shame
 when he confronts his enemies at the gate.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Galatians 4.4-7

Response

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The Word of God

Psalm 128

- 1 Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord:
and walks in the confine of his ways.
- 2 You will eat the fruit of your labours:
happy shall you be, and all shall go well with you.
- 3 Your wife within your house:
shall be as a fruitful vine;
- 4 Your children around your table:
like the fresh shoots of the olive.
- 5 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed:
who lives in the fear of the Lord.
- 6 May the Lord so bless you from Zion:
that you see Jerusalem in prosperity
all the days of your life.
- 7 May you see your children's children:
and in Israel let there be peace.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2.11-14

Response

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The Word of God

Psalm 150

- 1 Praise the Lord. O praise God in his sanctuary:
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts:
praise him according to his abundant goodness.
- 3 Praise him in the blast of the ram's horn:
praise him upon the lute and harp.
- 4 Praise him with the timbrel and dances:
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him on the high-sounding cymbals:
praise him upon the loud cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord:
O praise the Lord!

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 1.1-3

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On any day of Christmas

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Psalm 8

- 1 O Lord our Governor:
how glorious is your name in all the earth!
- 2 Your majesty above the heavens is yet recounted:
by the mouths of babes and sucklings.
- 3 You have founded a strong defence
against your adversaries:
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers:
the moon and the stars which you have set in order,
- 5 What are we, that you should be mindful of us:
what are we, that you should care for us?
- 6 Yet you have made us little less than gods:
and have crowned us with glory and honour.
- 7 You have given us dominion over your handiwork:
and have put all things in subjection beneath our feet,
- 8 All sheep and oxen:
and all the creatures of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air and the fish of the sea:
and everything that moves
in the pathways of the great waters.
- 10 O Lord our Governor:
how glorious is your name in all the earth!

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
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and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. *John 1.4, 5*

Response

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