

Home Prayers

July 18, 2021 • Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 685-679)

*If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text.
If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently.*

The Preparation

O God, you command a light to shine out of darkness.
Shine in our hearts that we may be as lights in the world
reflecting the glory of Jesus in our lives.

God is light and in him is no darkness.

A hymn may be sung.

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your days be bright."
I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
'til travelling days are done.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

The collect of the day may be said. This is a collect for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:

Compassionate God,
from far and near you gather your church into one,
safeguard the unity of your flock
through the teaching of Christ the Shepherd,
so that all your scattered children may find in him
the guidance and nourishment they seek.

Amen.

Reading

The Gospel of the day may be read. Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 is appointed for Pentecost 8:

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed.

We pray for the peoples of the world: for leaders of nations and all in positions of authority, for those who endure the hardships of poverty, disease, or conflict. Break down the dividing walls of hostility and bring peace to your troubled world, that enmity between nations and races might cease.

Jesus, peace of the world,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the worldwide church: for the World Council of Churches, the Canadian Council of Churches, and for all instruments of Christian unity; for the churches in our communities, for the clergy and people of this diocese. Break down the walls of suspicion that divide those of different beliefs, that we may see each other as children of the one God.

Jesus, Saviour of the world,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who belong to our communities: for our families and friends and for those who have no one to love them; for those whose work sustains our common life and for those who have too little, too much, or no work. Break down the dividing walls of exclusion and prejudice, that in our communities all may know themselves accepted and valued.

Jesus, friend of all the world,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in need: for those who are overwhelmed by the demands of daily life; for those who are suffering illness, anxiety, or grief. Break down the dividing walls of despair and pain, that our lives may be touched anew with your healing presence.

Jesus, compassionate heart of the world,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for your faithful people of every time and race: for the prophets, apostles, and saints; for those we love and whose yearly remembrance occurs at this time. Break down the walls of sin and death that separate us from you, that we may come at last into your presence, no longer strangers, but as citizens with the saints in the household of God.

Jesus, life of the world,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions can be offered.

This concluding prayer can then be said:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.