

Home Prayers

(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. During Lent, it is fitting that a cross be placed near where you will be praying.

The Preparation

Jesus said, "And if I am lifted up, I will draw the whole world to myself."

We will take up our cross and follow him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Almighty God, by the suffering of your Son you have brought hope to the whole world.
Help us in our trials and be the strength of our human weakness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A hymn may be sung. This one can go to the tune Austria, which also goes to the hymn "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken":

Surely it is God who saves me;
I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me
and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water
from salvation's healing spring;
in the day of your deliverance
thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

Make God's deeds known to the peoples:
Tell out his exalted Name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things;
all his works God's might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing;
for with you has come to dwell,
in your very midst the great and
Holy One of Israel.

The collect of the day may be said. This is the collect for the Third Sunday of Lent:

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life,
may we always thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness;
through him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

The Gospel of the day may be read. This is the Gospel appointed for the Third Sunday of Lent:

A reading from the gospel according to John:

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Intercessions

Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed. You may use the following litany alone or with others:

Loving God, we thank you for your many gifts to us: for the love which brings us together as your church even as we are physically apart, for the earth which provides for our needs, for the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray to you for our world: for all its cares and needs, and for all who lead us and care for us. We ask wisdom for leaders of governments and public health officials in Quebec, across Canada, and around the world as they seek to guide us through this pandemic.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray to you for those in need: for the sick and the lonely, especially those who are ill with COVID-19 or in quarantine; for those who are facing economic hardship because of the effects of this disease; for those who are working to care for those touched by this pandemic and those who are seeking a treatment and a cure.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died: for those whose lives have been taken by COVID-19 and for all of those whom we love but see no longer. Surround them with your care and love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for one another, asking you to bless us, our diocese, our whole church, our families and friends, and the world that you so love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

This prayer of can also be said:

Let us remember before God our selfish ways, the things we have done wrong, the sorrows we have caused, and the love we have not shown.

A moment of silence for reflection is kept.

**Most merciful Father,
forgive us our sins against you and against each other.
Strengthen us to overcome our weaknesses,
that we may live in love
as you would have us live,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

This prayer can then be said:

Fill our hearts, O God, with your Holy Spirit that we may go forth this day in peace and joy, serving you eagerly in all we do, for Jesus' sake. 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.