

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

¹Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" ³⁷And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" ³⁹They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Prayers of Intercession

God of life, with confidence in your abiding love, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, we praise and give you thanks for your victory over sin and death. Open our hearts to receive your new life. And guide us to share this good news with the whole world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the church, that all leaders, ministers, and missionaries freely give of themselves in loving service. Strengthen your church to resist the temptation to cling to worldly power and possessions. Bless your church to be a servant-church in the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Stir up, in this congregation, a spirit of humble service. Strengthen our commitment to help those in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the leaders and citizens of all nations, that all those in authority will govern with justice, dignity, and compassion. We pray for peace on earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In this election season, help us, as good citizens of this nation, to respect our neighbors whose views differ from ours. Protect us from division and anger. And guide us vote for well-being of all people. Inspire us to take care of each other and live together in peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all those in harm's way, those who live in war-torn lands, and victims of violence and abuse. Teach us and guide us, by your Holy Spirit, too. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those on our prayer lists, and in our hearts. As they call to you for healing and relief from pain, give them grace in every illness, in every struggle, anxiety, and hardship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As we remember those who have died, we pray for your comfort and peace. Surround us, and all who grieve, with the peace and joy of your eternal life. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, gracious and merciful, we bring our prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.