

Prayer of the Day

O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

⁸The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, ⁹“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

²⁴Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place

year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

³⁸ As [Jesus] taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Prayers of Intercession

As the people of God gathered together, we pray for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

God of love, as we gather for worship on this holy day, we pray for your insight, strength, and wisdom to commit ourselves to your divine values. Help us to bring your love into the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray that your church on earth will live faithfully and generously. Help your church to witness to your love and live according to your will. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Breathe your Holy Spirit upon our nation, that we may be at peace among ourselves. Instill goodness and kindness in the hearts and minds of all citizens, that your love will prevail in our land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for veterans who have served our nation faithfully and loyally. We pray for healing for veterans who have experienced the stress and trauma of war, and who carry physical and mental wounds from their days of service. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our congregation, and all the churches that surround us. Sustain us with your love, bless us in every struggle, and fill us with generosity and hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant healing and strength to those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit, especially those on our prayer lists and in our hearts. Bless and strengthen the work of doctors, nurses, and all who care for the sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who grieve, that your heavenly light shine upon them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.