

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

⁹As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹³As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

¹⁴To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

^{4b} Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel: John 18:33-37

³³ Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

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 heaven and earth, you have given us your Son: our Savior, our Lord, our King. Strengthen the church to bring his voice into the world, and to serve in his name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire world leaders to govern with justice, compassion, and love. We pray for an end to violence, war, injustice, and hatred among the nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Open the eyes of all your children to recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world. Rescue us from the power of darkness. Help us to live in this world as citizens of your Kingdom of Light. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Fill the people of this congregation with your Holy Spirit, so that all we say and do will draw people to your Son. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant peace and endurance to all who are anxious, troubled, lonely, depressed, and living with disabilities. Grant them the love of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for your healing touch to rest upon the sick and suffering. Bring relief from pain. Help them to heal and to persevere in faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for our loved ones who have gone before us and now live in your eternal light. At the last, bring us all into your eternal kingdom to worship and adore you in everlasting joy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy and eternal God, we entrust all our prayers to you, in the name of Christ Jesus, who reigns as King now and ever. Amen.