

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's love for us, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy and loving God, we bring you our highest praise, and our most heartfelt thanks for all your gifts. We thank you for the life of Jesus, your beloved Son, our greatest gift. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Guide and empower your church on earth to be your voice and your presence, especially when your sons and daughters are in deep waters, raging rivers, and harmful fires. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Grant to world and local government leaders the willingness to speak and act according to your will. Send your Spirit upon them that they desire to do good for all your beloved children. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Be present with those who are oppressed. Protect them from harm. Bring peace and healing where there is sin in the world. Give strength to those who work for justice. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen us in our desire to pray daily. Help us to see the signs of your abiding presence. Open our minds, hearts, and souls to listen to your voice. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Heal those who are sick in body, mind, and spirit. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery, including those on our prayer lists. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Comfort those who grieve. Bless their tears and their memories of loved ones. Send the power of the resurrection into their hearts. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Holy and loving God, we entrust our prayers to you, in the sure and certain hope that we are your beloved children. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.