

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, 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 25:6-8

⁶Here on Mount Zion the Lord Almighty will prepare a banquet for all the nations of the world — a banquet of the richest food and the finest wine. ⁷Here he will suddenly remove the cloud of sorrow that has been hanging over all the nations.

⁸The Sovereign Lord will destroy death forever! He will wipe away the tears from everyone's eyes and take away the disgrace his people have suffered throughout the world. The Lord himself has spoken.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³For I received from the Lord the teaching that I passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a piece of bread, ²⁴gave thanks to God, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in memory of me."

²⁵In the same way, after the supper he took the cup and said, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me." ²⁶This means that every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel: John 13:4-5, 12-17, 34-35

⁴[During supper, Jesus] rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. ⁵Then he poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. ¹²After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his outer garment back on and returned to his place at the table. "Do you understand what I have just done to you?" he asked.

¹³"You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. ¹⁴I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. ¹⁶I am telling you the truth: no slaves are greater than their master, and no messengers are greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷Now that you know this truth, how blessed you will be if you put it into practice!"

³⁴And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

Prayers of Intercession

With faith in God, we pray for the world, the church,
and all in need.

A brief silence.

Saving God, remove from our hearts and souls all that is evil.
Give us new hearts as we remember all your blessings.
Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

Open the hearts of your people to your abiding presence.
Help us to reject all that is deceitful and untrue. Help us
always to remember that we belong to you. Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

Grant the leaders of every nation to desire peace.
Inspire them to reject hatefulness, oppression, and greed.
Unite all your children in the quest for peace and goodness.
Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

Empower us all to turn away from arrogance and selfishness.
Help us to remember your call to serve. Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

We pray for those we know and love who are carrying
burdens of sickness, pain, or anxiety. We pray that your
healing come to them directly, and through healthcare
professionals, care-givers, and medicines. Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

As we remember today our loved ones who have died,
comfort us in every sorrow, and grant us peace and hope.
Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

Merciful God, receive our prayers, in the name of the one
who gave his life for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
Amen.