



MORNING AND  
EVENING PRAYER

---

OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



The English translation of the psalms and canticles and the pointing of these texts are taken from *The Liturgical Psalter: Text for Study and Comment* © 1994, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

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A selection of Mercy readings is presented at the end of this volume. We are grateful for permission to publish excerpts from the writings of many authors. Their names and the titles of these works are acknowledged with each set of excerpts, as well as in the Themes and Sources that accompany the Mercy readings.

This book was designed by Lisa Buckley and set in type by Mark Hollopeter. Rosie Kelly rendered the quotations from Catherine McAuley in calligraphy. Mary Laur developed the index.

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# CONTENTS



*vi* . *Introduction*

*x* . *Suggestions For Using This Book*

RECURRING TEXTS . *1* . *Greetings, Doxologies, Blessings  
Canticles of Zechariah and Mary*

PSALM TONES . *7*

## PROPERS OF THE SEASONS

ADVENT . *20*

CHRISTMAS . *78*

LENT . *216*

EASTER TRIDUUM . *316*

EASTER . *340*

SOLEMNITIES . *456*

THE PSALTER . *538* . *Week One*

*588* . *Week Two*

*642* . *Week Three*

*691* . *Week Four*

PROPERS OF THE SAINTS . *744*

COMMONS	. 808	. <i>Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary I and II</i>
	820	. <i>Feasts of Holy Women</i>
	824	. <i>Feasts of Holy Men</i>
	828	. <i>Feasts of Holy Women and Men</i>
	844	. <i>Feasts of the Sisters of Mercy I</i>
	850	. <i>Feasts of the Sisters of Mercy II</i>
	854	. <i>Intercessions for Special Mercy Feasts</i>
	858	. <i>The Office for the Dead</i>

DAYTIME PRAYER	. 864
AND NIGHT PRAYER	

A SELECTION OF MERCY READINGS	. 876	. <i>Readings</i>
	959	. <i>Themes and Sources</i>

ALTERNATE OR	. 967
SUPPLEMENTARY PSALMS AND CANTICLES	

INDICES	. 969	. <i>Psalms and Canticles</i>
	971	. <i>Scriptural Readings</i>

# INTRODUCTION



In her *Retreat Instructions*, Catherine McAuley reminded the newly founded Sisters of Mercy that “our center is God, from whom all our actions should spring as from their source” (p. 154), and therefore “our whole life should be a continual act of praise and prayer” (p. 44). From the beginning of the Institute, we have centered ourselves in God and deepened our commitment to the works of mercy through the daily practice of personal and communal prayer. Prayer together also affords us an opportunity to strengthen our bonds with one another in our common Mercy vocation. Our shared prayer centers us in the paschal mystery, opens us to the needs of the world, and strengthens us for mission. This book has been prepared as a resource to enhance our individual and communal prayer. It is designed according to the following principles:

1. Praying in harmony with the church. The church’s year provides a cycle of seasons and a

cycle of feasts which focus our attention on the principal mysteries of our faith. Praying in the spirit of these seasons and feasts unites us with the faithful throughout the world. Furthermore, the church's day is structured around morning and evening prayer, as are the prayer texts in this volume. Daytime and night prayers offer other opportunities to return to our Source. Finally, the words of sacred scripture provide us with a privileged language for our prayer.

2. Incorporating the resources of our Mercy tradition. Many prayer texts are based on the words of Catherine McAuley and on documents central to Mercy life. Intercessions and prayers have been written to voice our corporate concerns. The cycle of feasts includes many specific Mercy feasts, such as those of the saints whom Catherine names in the original Rule as the special patrons of the Institute. The book also includes a rich selection of Mercy readings.

3. Respecting the values of inclusive language and scriptural integrity. Gender-inclusive language is used in all original texts. The psalms and canticles, which are translated and published by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), also employ inclusive language throughout. Other scriptural texts are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*, which remains a standard for scholarly excellence.

4. Providing a framework for prayer which can be adapted to various needs and circumstances. The framework chosen is that of the cathedral office, an ancient form of church prayer that predates the monastic office. Because it was intended for use by the laity, it is briefer and less complex than the monastic office. Each morning and evening prayer contains several elements — psalm, canticle, antiphons, reading, intercessions, and prayer — which offer a variety of themes and intentions for prayer. In some cases the intercessions and prayer echo the theme of the psalm; in other cases, of the reading. In every case there is sufficient richness to satisfy a variety of needs. In selecting feasts to be included, care has been taken to include those representative of countries other than Europe and North America.

The preparation of this book has been a cooperative effort by many Sisters of Mercy. We want to acknowledge with special gratitude the numerous sisters whose original prayers enrich the text; Sisters Catherine Grace Barrett, Cecilia Heduan, and Cabrini Taitano for bringing us the insights of sisters beyond the United States; Sister Margaret Brault for her careful preparation of the manuscript; Sister Mary Sullivan for her special assistance throughout the project; Sister Cecilia Heduan for the preparation of the Spanish text. We hope that the



celebration of our corporate word by means of this *Morning and Evening Prayer* will unite us more closely in our common call and common mission.

*The Editorial Committee*

*Sisters Virginia Mary Andrews*

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## SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THIS BOOK



Common prayer is enhanced by thoughtful and prayerful preparation on the part of an animator or leader. The elements of the cathedral office to be considered are the following:

***Greeting:*** A selection of greetings with which to call the group to prayer is given on p. 2 and in the texts for major feast days.

***Doxology:*** Several trinitarian forms of praise are found on pp. 2 – 3. A doxology may be used after the greeting and after each psalm and canticle.

***Psalm:*** One psalm is provided for each morning and evening prayer, and on major feasts a canticle is also given. Alternate or additional psalms or canticles may be selected from those listed on pp. 967 – 68 and in the indices.

***Antiphon:*** These short verses printed in italics are used to introduce a psalm or canticle. They may also be repeated between each verse of the psalm or canticle and again at the end.

***Reading:*** A reading from scripture is included in each morning and evening prayer. Alternate or additional scriptural readings may be taken

from the Bible or lectionary. In addition there is a collection of Mercy readings on pp. 876 – 958. These represent a variety of reflections on the meaning of Catherine McAuley’s life and of the charism of mercy.

***Silence:*** A short pause after the reading, with or without meditative music, gives the opportunity to reflect on the words just heard.

***Canticle of Zechariah or of Mary:*** These texts are given on pp. 4 – 5.

***Intercessions and Prayer:*** The intercessions given for each day may be replaced or augmented by the needs of the praying community. The intercessions close with the Lord’s Prayer and the Prayer of the day.

***Blessing:*** A selection of final blessings is found on pp. 3 – 4 and in the texts for major feast days.

Morning and evening prayer invite us to a way of praying that involves the whole person — body, mind, and spirit. There are a number of ways to enhance communal prayer by incorporating music, sacred space and gesture, and faith sharing.

***Music:*** The psalms of morning and evening prayer are the sacred song of Israel and of the Christian church. Chanting and singing enhance

prayer, as the combination of melody and lyric move the heart and mind. Music may be incorporated into communal prayer through the use of opening and closing songs, reflective songs or meditative music after the readings, sung antiphons, or the chanting of the psalms. The texts of the psalms and canticles have been pointed to facilitate chanting them.

***Sacred Space and Gesture:*** In Christian thought the principle of sacramentality places a high priority on the involvement of the senses in worship. Creation of a sacred space in which the community may gather assists the act of worship. Attention to environment and ambience enriches and focuses our prayer. Incorporation of liturgical symbols and sacramentals such as water, light, and incense brings together the transcendent and immanent aspects of worship. Traditionally, the Saturday evening office highlights the Easter symbolism by the lighting of candles or lamps.

Prayerful gestures such as bowing, extending hands in blessing, exchanging the greeting of peace, and other movements also enhance communal prayer.

***Faith Sharing:*** Shared reflection on the word of God helps us to integrate our prayer more

closely into the rhythm of our daily lives and ministries. Recognizing that “the word of God opens us to contemplate the divine Presence in ourselves, in others and in the universe,”\* we seek together to hear the revelation of the Spirit. Communal sharing, a prepared reflection after the reading, spontaneous intercessions based on present needs, creative modes of responding to the reading, or other models of communal response may be incorporated into morning and evening prayer.


The richness of our worship experience provides a catalyst to our receptivity to God’s word — a stance of openness to what God is doing among us. Our prayer becomes our teacher: “Through prayer we adore God as the Merciful One; we seek to discover God’s movement in us and in our world; we learn to forgive and we intercede for ourselves and for others.”\*

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\* *Constitutions of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas*, 9 and 10.

# RECURRING TEXTS

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The recital of the office  
is one of our  
most sacred duties.

M. E. McAuley

## GREETINGS

*1* Let our prayer rise before you, God of all peoples and nations.  
May your grace fill the world.  
Sanctify the work of our hands.  
Bring forth the reign of your justice and mercy.

*2* May our lives be a hymn of praise, O God!  
May your glory shine forth in us!  
Strengthen us in love, root us in mercy!  
That your people may know your love  
is everlasting!

*3* O God, come to our aid!  
Hasten to hear us as we cry to you.  
God, our strength, be our shelter in time  
of need.  
Give us voice to proclaim your love.

*4* O God, come to my assistance,  
O Lord, make haste to help me.

## DOXOLOGIES

*1* Glory to you, three in one. Your mercy endures forever. Amen.

*2* Glory to you, Source of Life, Living Word, and Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.



3 Glory to you, God of all peoples.  
To Jesus, healer and friend,  
To the Spirit dwelling within,  
Praise be yours forever. Amen.

4 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to  
the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever  
shall be world without end. Amen.

### BLESSINGS

1 May God's blessing be upon us. Amen.  
May God's light lead us in the way of  
righteousness. Amen.  
May our lives be patterned on Christ Jesus.  
Amen.

2 May the Spirit of God find a home in us.  
Amen.  
May the Spirit of God animate us. Amen.  
May the Spirit of God create new hearts in us.  
Amen.

3 May God bless and animate us with his own  
divine spirit. Amen.  
May we prove it is Jesus Christ we love and  
serve with our whole hearts. Amen.  
May God count us among his dearest and best  
beloved. Amen.

4 May the God of mercy bless and protect us all. Amen.

May the God of peace comfort us in times of trial. Amen.

May the God of love shine forth in our lives. Amen.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who shepherds the people and sets them free.

God raises from David's house  
a child with power to save.  
Through the holy prophets  
God promised in ages past  
to save us from enemy hands,  
from the grip of all who hate us.

The Lord favored our ancestors  
recalling the sacred covenant,  
the pledge to our ancestor Abraham,  
to free us from our enemies,  
so we might worship without fear  
and be holy and just all our days.

And you, child, will be called  
Prophet of the Most High,  
for you will come to prepare  
a pathway for the Lord  
by teaching the people salvation  
through forgiveness of their sin.

Out of God's deepest mercy  
a dawn will come from on high,  
light for those shadowed by death,  
a guide for our feet on the way to peace.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

I acclaim the greatness of the Lord,  
I delight in God my savior,  
who regarded my humble state.  
Truly from this day on  
all ages will call me blest.

For God, wonderful in power,  
has used that strength for me.  
Holy the name of the Lord!  
Whose mercy embraces the faithful,  
one generation to the next.

The mighty arm of God  
scatters the proud in their conceit,  
pulls tyrants from their thrones,  
and raises up the humble.  
The Lord fills the starving  
and lets the rich go hungry.

God rescues lowly Israel,  
recalling the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham's heirs for ever.

# PSALM TONES

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A silhouette of a person with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The person's head is bald, and their right hand is raised with the index and middle fingers pointing upwards.

Above all things  
constant fervent prayer.

M. L. McAuley

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PSALM TONES



*“With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.”* – COLOSSIANS 3:16b

The inspired songs of Israel, the psalms and canticles, express the emotions and longings of the human heart. Singing these prayers enabled the people of Israel to bring mind, spirit and body to their praise of God. The psalms and canticles in this book have been set to a variety of musical tones to provide today’s users the option of singing them.

The nine psalm tones and the special tone for the Canticles of Zechariah and Mary provide settings appropriate for praise, lamentation, prophetic exhortation or thanksgiving. Each psalm tone has four measures. The psalms and canticles in the text have been underlined to show how the melody fits the words. When a stanza has two markings, measures A and D are used. When a stanza has three markings, measures A, B and D are used. In stanzas with four markings, all measures are used.

The musical structure of the psalm tones consists of three parts: a recitation note, two preparatory notes leading to the concluding note, and the final note. In some cases the preparatory notes are given to a single word. This is usually indicated by a double underline. As in all poetic song, the

melody follows the sense and feeling of the words. A practical norm to guide the singing community is, “Expression which is awkward in spoken language is awkward in psalmody.”

All of the psalm tones follow the same principles for use. Communities that desire to use them might begin by learning one or two and later add additional tones to enrich their prayer. Repeated use of the chant tones brings a familiarity that allows one to move beyond the written text into the heart of prayer much like the repeated use of a mantra or prayer card.

# THE PSALM TONES

## Tone 1: The Hymns

A B C D

I

Optional Accompaniment

II *p*

A B D

I

II *p*

A D

I

II *p*

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*Tone 2: Hymns of the Lord's Kingship  
and Songs of Zion*

A B C D

I

Optional Accompaniment

II

*p*

A B D

I

II

*p*

A D

I

II

*p*

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### Tone 3: Laments of an Individual

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line consists of four measures, with the first two measures of each system labeled 'A' and the last two labeled 'D'. The piano accompaniment is divided into two parts, I and II. Part I is the primary accompaniment, and Part II is an optional accompaniment marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both the right and left hands. The optional accompaniment (Part II) provides a more sustained and harmonic accompaniment.

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*Tone 4: Confidence or Thanksgiving  
of an Individual*

I

A B C D

II

*Optional Accompaniment*

*p*

I

A B D

II

*p*

I

A D

II

*p*

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## Tone 5: Laments of the Community

The musical score is divided into three systems, each with four measures. The first system is labeled with letters A, B, C, and D above the vocal line. The second system is labeled with letters A, B, and D above the vocal line. The third system is labeled with letters A and D above the vocal line. The score includes vocal parts I and II, and an optional piano accompaniment (piano II) marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The vocal parts feature a melodic line with a descending interval in measures B and D, and a sustained bass line. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and sustained notes.

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*Tone 6: Confidence or Thanksgiving  
of the Community*

First system of musical notation. The vocal line (top) contains four measures labeled A, B, C, and D. The piano accompaniment consists of two parts, I and II. Part I has a treble and bass staff with chords and moving lines. Part II has a treble and bass staff with sustained chords.

*Optional Accompaniment*

Second system of musical notation, labeled "Optional Accompaniment". It shows two parts, I and II. Part I has a treble and bass staff with sustained chords. Part II has a treble and bass staff with sustained chords. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present at the beginning of Part I.

Third system of musical notation. The vocal line (top) contains three measures labeled A, B, and D. The piano accompaniment consists of two parts, I and II, with treble and bass staves.

Fourth system of musical notation, labeled "Optional Accompaniment". It shows two parts, I and II. Part I has a treble and bass staff with sustained chords. Part II has a treble and bass staff with sustained chords. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present at the beginning of Part I.

Fifth system of musical notation. The vocal line (top) contains two measures labeled A and D. The piano accompaniment consists of two parts, I and II, with treble and bass staves.

Sixth system of musical notation, labeled "Optional Accompaniment". It shows two parts, I and II. Part I has a treble and bass staff with sustained chords. Part II has a treble and bass staff with sustained chords. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present at the beginning of Part I.

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## Tone 7: Royal Psalms

First system of musical notation for Tone 7: Royal Psalms. It includes a vocal line with notes A, B, C, and D, and a piano accompaniment with two staves (I and II). The key signature has one sharp (F#).

*Optional Accompaniment*

Optional piano accompaniment for the first system, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It features two staves (I and II) with sustained chords and moving bass lines.

Second system of musical notation for Tone 7: Royal Psalms. It includes a vocal line with notes A, B, and D, and a piano accompaniment with two staves (I and II). The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Optional piano accompaniment for the second system, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It features two staves (I and II) with sustained chords and moving bass lines.

Third system of musical notation for Tone 7: Royal Psalms. It includes a vocal line with notes A and D, and a piano accompaniment with two staves (I and II). The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Optional piano accompaniment for the third system, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It features two staves (I and II) with sustained chords and moving bass lines.

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## Tone 8: Wisdom and Historical Psalms

Measures 1-4 of the musical score. Part I consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has four measures labeled A, B, C, and D. Part II, labeled "Optional Accompaniment", provides a piano accompaniment for the same four measures, starting with a *p* dynamic marking.

Optional Accompaniment

Measures 5-8 of the musical score. Part I consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has three measures labeled A, B, and D. Part II, labeled "Optional Accompaniment", provides a piano accompaniment for the same three measures, starting with a *p* dynamic marking.

Measures 9-11 of the musical score. Part I consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has three measures labeled A, B, and D. Part II, labeled "Optional Accompaniment", provides a piano accompaniment for the same three measures, starting with a *p* dynamic marking.

Measures 12-14 of the musical score. Part I consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has three measures labeled A, B, and D. Part II, labeled "Optional Accompaniment", provides a piano accompaniment for the same three measures, starting with a *p* dynamic marking.

Measures 15-16 of the musical score. Part I consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has two measures labeled A and D. Part II, labeled "Optional Accompaniment", provides a piano accompaniment for the same two measures, starting with a *p* dynamic marking.

Measures 17-18 of the musical score. Part I consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has two measures labeled A and D. Part II, labeled "Optional Accompaniment", provides a piano accompaniment for the same two measures, starting with a *p* dynamic marking.

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## Tone 9: Prophetic Exhortations and Liturgies

A B C D

I

*Optional Accompaniment*

II *p*

A B D

I

II *p*

A D

I

II *p*

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# Canticles of Zechariah and Mary

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system contains a vocal line and a piano accompaniment labeled 'I'. The vocal line is in G major and consists of four measures, each labeled with a letter: A, B, C, and D. Measure A: G4 quarter, A4 quarter, B4 quarter, G4 quarter. Measure B: G4 quarter, A4 quarter, B4 quarter, G4 quarter. Measure C: G4 quarter, A4 quarter, B4 quarter, G4 quarter. Measure D: G4 quarter, A4 quarter, B4 quarter, G4 quarter. The piano accompaniment 'I' consists of two staves. The right hand plays chords in G major: G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4. The left hand plays a simple bass line: G3, A3, B3, G3, A3, B3, G3, A3, B3, G3.


The second system is labeled 'Optional Accompaniment' and is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It consists of two staves. The right hand plays chords in G major: G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4. The left hand plays a simple bass line: G3, A3, B3, G3, A3, B3, G3, A3, B3, G3.

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PROPERS OF THE SEASONS

SEASON OF ADVENT

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To obtain recollection,  
we must entertain  
a great love for Silence.

M. & M. Auley

# SUNDAY

✠  
GVB

## EVENING PRAYER I

*Throughout the Advent Season, use the Morning and Evening Prayer as in the Psalter, substituting the readings, intercessions and prayers for Advent. Supplemental psalms and canticles appropriate for Advent may also be chosen.*

### READING

#### *1 Thessalonians 5:19 – 24*

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God who calls you is faithful, and will do this.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*May we be kept blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God has given us Mary as mother and model,  
and so we pray.

For all mothers and expectant mothers:

*~ Mary, help them to receive God's Word and act  
upon it.*

For all women seeking fullness of life and  
equality in church and society:

For women in prison, trapped in prostitution  
and addiction, or held down by poverty,  
illiteracy, and unjust laws:

For the Sisters of Mercy, all women religious,  
their associates and companions in ministry:

For women discerning a call to Mercy:

For the members of our families:

## PRAYER

Loving God, you came to set us free from the  
bonds of sin and division. Show us the way, so  
that we, like Mary, may live wisely and proclaim  
your will through our lives. Protect us this  
night and give us peaceful rest. We make our  
prayer through the intercession of Mary, our  
mother and advocate before you. Amen.

## MORNING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Romans 13:11 – 14*

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day. Let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*With eager longing, we await your coming.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Light of the World, we celebrate this Advent with hearts full of longing for your coming:

~ *Come and do not delay.*

In the darkness of our world, give us courage to search for truth:

In the darkness of our world, give us humility to acknowledge what keeps us from you:

In the darkness of our world, give us insight to recognize the needs of our neighbors:

In the darkness of our world, give us passion to  
create a more just society:

In the darkness of our world, help us bring  
hope to those who despair:

## PRAYER

O Jesus, it is the hour for us to wake from  
the sleep of selfishness and doubt. Help  
us greet this new day with eager longing for  
your message and confident hope of your  
future coming. This we ask with confidence  
in your promises. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER II



## READING

### *Philippians 4:4 – 7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,  
Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to  
everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about  
anything, but in everything by prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests  
be made known to God. And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding, will guard  
your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Rejoice in the Lord always.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God of joy and celebration, we rejoice and pray:

*~ Praise and thanks to you, our God!*

For the beauty of the earth:

For all animals, birds of the air, and fishes  
in the sea:

For fertile farmlands and abundant forests:

For oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams:

For mountains, deserts, prairies, and wetlands:

For flowers, fruits, and all the abundance  
of the land:

## PRAYER

O God, all creation sings your praise and proclaims your marvelous deeds. As the moon and stars illuminate this night, we thank you for the gift of life and beg your protection for all you have made. We make this request through the intercession of Christ Jesus who knows our every need. Amen.



# MONDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 2:3 – 4*

Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain  
of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that we may be instructed in righteous ways  
and walk in the pathways of our God.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
God shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither  
shall they learn war any more.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God of peace, teach us your ways, that we may renounce whatever separates us from you and from our brothers and sisters:

~ *God of peace, teach us your ways.*

That nations torn by racial and ethnic animosities, by class and religious prejudices, will find a way to embrace peace with justice:

That those who profit from the manufacture and sale of armaments will convert their efforts to peacetime uses:

That families and communities divided by suspicion and old hurts will find their way to reconciliation:

That young people who resort to violence will learn peaceful means of resolving differences:

That all who oppress and abuse others, in the family or workplace, will come to repentance:

That we may all learn to be peacemakers:

## PRAYER

Ruler of nations and Prince of peace, you know the secrets of all hearts. Teach us to love one another, to forgive all injuries, to bear wrongs patiently, and so to walk in your path. We make this prayer confident of your everlasting love for us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Philippians 3:20b – 21*

We are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*We are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Night falls and we draw close to the Spirit of Christ, our source of light and knowledge. As people of mercy, we seek compassion and kindness for ourselves and those whom we serve:

~ *Christ our Savior, show us the way to serve you in Mercy.*

As lovers and guardians of our planet earth, we pray:

~ *God our Creator, give us awareness of the beauty of the earth, and strengthen our resolve to care for it.*

As educators, we seek to lead others to the truth through our teaching in schools, health care institutions, parishes, and social services:

~ *Spirit of Wisdom, keep us close to you,  
the fountain of truth.*

As seekers of justice, we cry out against the pain and suffering inflicted by the forces of greed and corruption:

~ *Jesus, the voice of justice, give us the courage to  
raise our voices for those who cannot speak.*

As people who have seen a great Light, we long for your presence:

~ *Christ our Light, be with us always.*

## PRAYER

Loving God, you sent your son Jesus to earth to fulfill the promises of long ago. Be with us this night as we unite ourselves with the longings of your people through countless ages. May we one day be conformed to the blessed image of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

# TUESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Genesis 49:8 – 10*

Judah, your brothers shall praise you;  
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;  
the children of your father and mother shall  
bow down before you.

Judah is a lion's whelp;  
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.  
He crouches down, he stretches out like a lion,  
like a lioness — who dares rouse him up?  
The scepter shall not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,  
until tribute comes to him;  
and the obedience of the peoples is his.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Praise and honor to you, O God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, as we keep watch in this Advent  
season, we look forward to your future coming,  
and we pray.

For a spirit of openness to the leaders in our church who are charged with the office of teaching and sanctifying:

*~ May we recognize your presence in their words and deeds.*

For a spirit of openness to the prophets and poets in our midst who speak with special clarity:

For a spirit of openness to the strangers we meet each day who challenge us to new understandings:

For a spirit of openness to those with whom we minister and whose creativity, steadfastness, and generosity inspire us:

For a spirit of openness to our companions in community with whom we share a common call to Mercy:

## PRAYER

O God of Judah and ruler of the people, you confound the strong and raise up the weak. Help us to recognize your presence in the faces of all whom we will meet today. We make this prayer through the intercession of Jesus, our teacher and brother. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 1:4 – 9*

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who is faithful, will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. By this God you were called into the company of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Thanks be to God for the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Welcoming God, you are our refuge and home in every trouble.

We pray for the world's refugees, driven from their homes by war, famine and persecution:

*~ Open the hearts of nations to provide welcome and shelter to those in need.*

We pray for those who govern nations:

*~ Bless them with wisdom and compassion, that they may choose the welfare of their people over the false gains of ownership and power.*

We pray for all who are victims of civil and domestic violence:

*~ Give us the courage to defeat the culture of violence through advocacy, education and assistance.*

We pray for farmers, gardeners, conservationists, and for all who work the land:

*~ Teach us, as individuals and as a community, how to care for the earth.*

We pray for all those who are specially dedicated to the service of the church:

*~ Endow them with courage, joy and compassion toward all to whom they minister.*

## PRAYER

Gracious God, you are the source of every spiritual gift. From you we receive all that we need for our daily journey; like you we seek to share all that we have with those who are in need. Help us to be faithful to the mission to which you have called us. We make this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



# WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 7:10 – 15*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, by many signs and wonders you revealed yourself in times past, and you reveal

yourself to us today. Help us in this Advent season to treasure the signs of your presence among us.

We pray for the elderly whose wisdom enriches our lives:

*~ May they enjoy peace and security in their advancing years.*

We pray for children whose innocence and inquiring minds speak of your promise:

*~ May they grow in wisdom and grace before you.*

We pray for those afflicted in body or spirit:

*~ May they find relief through our Mercy ministry.*

We pray for those who practice the healing arts:

*~ May they be instruments of your compassionate care.*

We pray for the earth whose beauty and riches reflect your generosity to us:

*~ May we care for it with reverence and gratitude.*

We pray for farmers and miners and those who fish the seas:

*~ May they harvest the treasures of the earth with care for the needs of future generations.*

## PRAYER

God of wonders, your care for us is manifested in the gift of your Son, Jesus, who came among us

long ago as a little child. Help us prepare during this Advent season to celebrate his coming again. We make this prayer through the intercession of Mary, his mother and ours. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 4:5*

Do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*With faith and thanksgiving, we open our hearts to you,  
O God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We praise God at the rising and the setting of the sun. With all of creation we pray:

*~ We long for your coming, O Lord.*

Creator of light and darkness, give peace and rest to us at the end of our day:

Compassionate God, ever ancient, ever new,  
renew our commitment to serve your people:  
Christ our Redeemer, you are the one who is  
coming. We look for no other:

Jesus, you healed the blind, the lame and the  
deaf. Bless our companions and our families  
with good health:

Jesus, you preached the good news to the poor.  
Strengthen us to hear, study and preach your  
gospel through our words and deeds:

#### PRAYER

Ever faithful God, you have never abandoned us.  
As we anticipate the feast of Christ's holy birth,  
keep us faithful to you in thought, word and  
deed. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who will  
bring to light what is hidden in darkness. Amen.

THURSDAY



#### MORNING PRAYER

#### READING

*Isaiah 45:5 – 8*

I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

so that they may know, from the rising  
of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one  
besides me;  
I am the Lord, and there is no other.  
I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the Lord do all these things.

Shower, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,  
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;  
I the Lord have created it.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let justice  
also spring up!*

## INTERCESSIONS

God our Creator, open your heavens and  
rain down on us your righteousness. We pray  
especially for those persons who hunger and  
thirst for justice:

*~ Show them your mercy, O God.*

For those without safe shelter or adequate  
housing:

For immigrants and refugees and all displaced  
persons:

For migrant workers and their families:  
For prisoners of conscience and those who are  
falsely accused:  
For those awaiting trial and for their judges,  
advocates and juries:  
For legislators, economists, relief workers, and  
all who work for a more just world order:  
For all Sisters of Mercy as they strive to witness  
to your mercy and justice:

## PRAYER

Lord of heaven and earth, your knowledge surpasses all understanding, your goodness exceeds all measure. With arms outstretched we call on your name: you are our God, there is no other. Help us reflect your mercy to a world in need. We make this prayer with confidence in your ever-abiding love for us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## READING

*James 5:7 – 11*

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it

receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*With patience we await your coming, O Lord.*

### INTERCESSIONS

John came as a messenger, heralding the coming of Christ, and so we pray:

*~ Help us to be messengers of the Good News to all the world!*

That we may recognize our responsibility to those whose lives we touch, we pray:

That our preparation for Christmas may radiate peace and prayer to a world filled with unrest and distraction, we pray:

That we may remember, especially during this holy season, those who are poor, sick, and uneducated, we pray:

That our homes and institutions may model the respect due to our mother earth, we pray:

That those who die this night may meet their God with joy, we pray:

### PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, compassionate and merciful in all your ways. Teach us patience and make our hearts strong. May we be ready when you come to us in word or sacrament or in the need of our neighbor. We make this prayer in the spirit of the prophets of old: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.



# FRIDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

*Jeremiah 30:21 – 22*

Their prince shall be one of their own,  
their ruler shall come from their midst;  
I will bring him near, and he shall approach me,  
for who would otherwise dare to approach me?  
says the Lord.  
And you shall be my people,  
and I will be your God.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*You shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

God of the Covenant, your holy people long  
for your coming. In this Advent season we  
pray especially:

For the Jewish people, the first to hear your  
promise:

*~ May they be ever faithful to the call you have  
given them.*

For Christian peoples everywhere:

~ *May they be ever faithful to their baptismal commitment.*

For all who minister in your church:

~ *May they be ever faithful to their holy vocations.*

For all the members of our Institute, our associates, volunteers, and co-ministers:

~ *May we be ever faithful to the graces you have given us.*

For us here present:

~ *May we spend this day in fidelity to you.*

## PRAYER

With hearts full of longing and with confidence in your promise, we approach you this day, O God. Wherever your people gather, you are in our midst. Help us recognize your voice and respond to your invitation. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our brother and your Son. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *2 Peter 3:8b – 10*

With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. God is not slow about promises made, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*God's promise is not delayed, but invites all to repentance.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, as night approaches, we remember your promises to us. You are our God, and we are your people!

We thank you for your abundant love and mercy towards us:

*~ Keep us always faithful, O God.*

We thank you for the richness of your truth revealed in the many religions of the world:

~ *May we respect the beliefs of each person, O God.*

We thank you for the example of the faith of Mary and Elizabeth:

~ *Help us to trust in your word without reserve, O God.*

We thank you for people of all nations who have recognized the gifts and rights of women and children:

~ *May every person and every nation soon come to this recognition, O God.*

We thank you for each other:

~ *Help us to sustain and support each other in friendship and love, O God.*

## PRAYER

Eternal and ever-loving God, this day has been another sign of your providence in our regard. We thank you for all who have touched our lives in any way, and we ask that you keep us ever mindful of your constant care. We await your coming in whatever guise it may come. We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

# SATURDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 2:3 – 4*

Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain  
of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that we may be instructed in righteous ways  
and walk in the pathways of our God.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
God shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of  
the Lord from Jerusalem.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O God who created the whole human family, we begin this day remembering your unconditional love for all whom you have made:

*~ May they experience peace, joy and prosperity  
through the intercession  
of Mary our mother.*

We pray for all the peoples of the world:

We pray for all whom we will meet today:

We pray for anyone whom we may have injured  
by our words or actions:

We pray for our benefactors:

We pray for ourselves:

*~ May we experience peace, joy and prosperity  
through the intercession  
of Mary our mother.*

## PRAYER

Rest your Spirit upon us, O good and gentle God! Prepare us to receive your gifts, as we long for your coming. Teach us, through the example of Mary, to cherish the new life within us. We make this prayer through her intercession and that of her son, Jesus. Amen.

# DECEMBER 17



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 11:1 – 5*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod  
of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill  
the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*The Spirit of the Lord is a spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and of strength.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Confident in your enduring promise, O Lord,  
we beg for an increase in your Spirit:

*~ May we be faithful to the grace and light you bestow.*

For the spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
we pray:

For the spirit of counsel and of strength,  
we pray:

For the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of  
the Lord, we pray:

For the spirit to judge without being influenced  
by appearance or hearsay, we pray:

For the spirit of justice and compassion, we pray:

## PRAYER

God of faithfulness, we praise and thank you  
for your Spirit poured out upon us in countless  
ways. Help us to open ourselves to each new  
prompting of your Spirit. This we ask in the  
name and through the promise of Jesus, our  
brother and your Son. Amen.



## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 Thessalonians 5:19 – 24*

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and will do this.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*O Wisdom, holy Word of God, governing all creation with your strong yet tender care, come and teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Sophia, source of knowledge, we come before you this evening, praising you and seeking your guidance for our world as we pray:

~ *O God, grant us your wisdom.*

As we search for ways to comfort those who are lonely or afraid, we pray:

As we search for ways to be peace and mercy in our fragile world, we pray:

As we acknowledge leaders who hold directions  
for the future in their hands, we pray:

As we remember scholars who reveal to us the  
mysteries of your creation, we pray:

As we wait in silence for your Word, we pray:

## PRAYER

O Wisdom, we pray for discerning hearts that  
the mysteries of God's love may be revealed  
in us and through us. As we wait in stillness for  
the coming of the Savior, open our hearts to  
receive the word of life. We ask this through  
Jesus, the long-awaited one. Amen.

# DECEMBER 18



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Romans 13:11 – 14*

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; living honorably as in the day. Let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Our salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Seeking to prepare our lives for the coming of the Savior, we ask God to hear our needs and concerns, as we pray:

~ *O God, hear our prayer.*

That church leaders may guide us to a deeper faith in your active power in our lives, we pray:

That those who are doubtful and hopeless may find peace and security in your promise of salvation, we pray:

That those who are entrusted with power in the world may strive to meet the basic needs of all peoples, we pray:

That world leaders may find a way to bring peace and justice to the region of Jesus' birth, we pray:

That we may be attentive to the exhortations of the Advent readings and respond by active preparation for Christ's coming, we pray:

## PRAYER

O God, it is the hour for us to wake from the sleep of doubt and fear. Help us to greet this new day with eager longing for your message and with confident hope of your future coming. This we ask through the intercession of Jesus, our light and our guide. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## READING

*Philippians 4:4 – 7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to

everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*O Adonai, leader of ancient Israel, who revealed yourself to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the holy law on Mount Sinai, come, stretch out your hand and set us free.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O Adonai, you have planted your law of freedom in our hearts. Yearning for the fullness of this gift, we pray:

*~ O Adonai, stretch out your hand and set us free.*

For those who live in darkness and the shadow of death, who anticipate your coming without hope or joy, we pray:

For all those in bondage: for political prisoners, for the incarcerated, for the detained and disappeared, we pray:

For those restrained by illness of mind or body, we pray:

For those inhibited by lack of educational opportunity, we pray:

For those who live in abusive regimes or abusive relationships, we pray:

### PRAYER

You have called us to fullness of life, O God. Set us free, then, from all that prevents us from reaching our full stature as children of grace. Freedom is the law you have written in our hearts, and so we know that you will hear and answer our prayer. Amen.

# DECEMBER 19



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 2:3 – 4*

Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain  
of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that we may be instructed in righteous ways  
and walk in the pathways of our God.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
God shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Instruct us in your ways, that we may walk in your  
paths.*

## INTERCESSIONS

The coming of the Redeemer was foretold by the prophets. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we pray:

~ *Jesus, our Redeemer, hear our prayer.*

That the leaders of the Church may be diligent in calling us to turn from sin and to enjoy true conversion of heart, we pray:

That those responsible for enacting laws may always seek justice for all peoples, we pray:

That we may extend ourselves to those among us who are suffering rejection or loneliness, we pray:

That we may hear and take to heart the call to conversion, we pray:

That our deceased sisters, relatives and friends may enjoy pardon and peace in God's reign, we pray:

## PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, compassionate and merciful in all your ways. Teach us patience and make our hearts strong. May we be ready when you come to us in word or sacrament or in the need of our neighbor. We make this prayer in the spirit of the prophets of old: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.



## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Philippians 3:20b – 21*

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*O Flower of Jesse's stem and sign of God's love for all people, rulers stand silent in your presence; nations bow down in worship. Come and save us without delay!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, our Savior, we yearn for your coming,  
and we cry to you:

~ *Come and save us without delay!*

Our hearts yearn for the solace of your presence  
and your peace:

Those who are hungry long for nourishment  
for their bodies and spirits:

Those who are oppressed cry out for liberty:

Those who are young seek meaning for  
their lives:

Those who are dying await your coming:

**PRAYER**

Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus, a sign of your love for all people, to fulfill the promises of long ago. Be with us this night as we unite ourselves with the longing of your people through countless ages. As the flowering of Jesse's stem symbolizes your promise of salvation, may acts of mercy and justice flower among us, that your people may know your saving love. Amen.

# DECEMBER 20



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Genesis 49:8 – 10*

Judah, your brothers shall praise you;  
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;  
the children of your father and mother shall  
    bow down before you.

Judah is a lion's whelp;  
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.  
He crouches down, he stretches out like a lion,  
like a lioness — who dares rouse him up?  
The scepter shall not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,  
until tribute comes to him;  
and the obedience of the peoples is his.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*The scepter shall not depart from Judah until tribute  
comes to him.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Long awaited One, we come before you seeking the way. We search for you in the daily happenings of our lives and pray to be ever aware of your presence:

~ *We wait for you, God of hope.*

In times of uncertainty, give us courage to search for truth:

In times of despair, help us to recognize your light:

In times of illness, may we know you as our healer:

In times of selfishness, may we be moved to generosity:

In times of dullness, infuse us with your creative energy:

## PRAYER

O God, long awaited One, as we join the long procession of those who have waited for you over the centuries, give us patience to use this time of waiting in a way that brings direction and hope to our world. Remind us that, day by day, we are on our way to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our companion on the way. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 1:4 – 9*

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who is faithful, will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. By this God you were called into the company of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, at your word the gates of heaven open and the walls of sin give way. Come, free us from all that holds us in darkness, and lead us out of our exile.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O Key of David, you unlocked heaven for us, yet we remain prisoners of our own attitudes toward the poor and marginalized in society.

Help us open doors that we have locked,  
and give us the courage to respond generously  
to those in need.

To those suffering from AIDS and other  
infectious diseases:

*~ Give us the courage to open our hearts  
and hands.*

To the elderly who are isolated and lonely:

To those who are misunderstood because of  
racial, ethnic, and cultural differences:

To the 'invisible poor,' those languishing in  
prisons and shelters and half-way houses:

To those who espouse unpopular causes for the  
sake of others' needs:

## PRAYER

We come before you, O God, confident of  
your care for all those imprisoned by poverty,  
sickness, prejudice and ignorance. Open our  
hearts to listen to your word and our hands to  
do your work. Give us strength and courage  
to be bearers of your mercy to all those whom  
we may have neglected in the past. This we ask  
through Jesus, whose coming we await. Amen.

# DECEMBER 21



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 7:10 – 15*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Ask a sign of the Lord, your God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

As morning dawns we draw closer to Christ,  
our source of light and knowledge.

As people of mercy, we seek compassion and kindness for those with whom we serve:

~ *Christ, our Savior, shine upon our minds and hearts that we may see the way to serve you in mercy.*

As people of hospitality and welcome, we are touched by the plight of the homeless:

~ *Jesus, who made your home with us, help us to provide affordable housing for all.*

As educators, we wish to lead others to the truth through our teaching in schools, health care institutions, parishes and social services:

~ *Wisdom of the ages, keep us close to you, the fountain of truth.*

As seekers of justice, we cry out against the pain and suffering inflicted by the forces of greed and corruption:

~ *Jesus, the voice of justice, give us the courage to raise our voices for those who cannot speak.*

As dwellers in darkness, we long for your coming:

~ *Christ, our light, be with us always.*

## PRAYER

Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus to earth to fulfill the promise of the scriptures. Be with us this day as we unite ourselves with your waiting people through the ages. May we



experience your gracious presence among us,  
O God, you who never forget those who long  
for you. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 4:5*

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before  
the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring  
to light the things now hidden in darkness and  
will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each  
one will receive commendation from God.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,  
sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell  
in darkness and the shadow of death.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Radiant Dawn, you come to help us push back  
the darkness:

~ *Draw us to your light.*

We pray for the gift of knowledge that helps  
to dispel the darkness of unknowing:

We pray for the gift of openness to all the peoples of the earth:

We pray for the gift of awareness of those who are in need:

We pray for the gift of gentleness with those who are vulnerable:

We pray for the gift of peace in our hearts and in our world:

### PRAYER

O Radiant Dawn, light the path before us that we may walk in the way of justice and mercy. May each step lead us closer to the realization of your reign, where peace and goodness will be the clear signs of your presence among us. May the warmth of your eternal light shine on those who walk this night in the shadow of death. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the one who comes. Amen.

# DECEMBER 22



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 45:5 – 8*

I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,  
so that they may know, from the rising  
of the sun

and from the west, that there is no one  
besides me;

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the Lord do all these things.

Shower, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,  
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;  
I the Lord have created it.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Let the earth open, that salvation may spring up; let  
righteousness also spring up!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Coming Savior, our anticipation mounts as  
the day of your birth draws near. Be with us  
as we await the fullness of your revelation.

You led shepherds and kings to the stable:

*~ Guide us to unity with all creation.*

In your birth the divine became human, a virgin  
bore a son:

*~ Make us bold in the knowledge that,  
for you, all things are possible.*

Mary and Joseph were strangers in Bethlehem:

*~ May the gift of hospitality flourish  
among us.*

Angels sang out the good news of your birth:

*~ May your praise resound through all  
the earth.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, coming Savior, as we anticipate the  
celebration of your birth, remind us that you  
are already present to us in all the events and  
relationships that constitute our lives. Give us  
discerning hearts that we may find you wherever

and whenever you come to meet us. We ask this in hope. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *James 5:7 – 11*

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*O Ruler of all nations and true desire of every human heart, come and save us whom you have fashioned with your hands!*

## INTERCESSIONS

With all our hearts we desire you, our God, and we pray for the grace to cherish the richness and diversity of your people:

~ *Whom you have fashioned with your hands.*

We pray for the people of every race and nation:

We pray for the children:

We pray for the marginalized and the outcast:

We pray for those who suffer from diseases of mind and body:

We pray for the elderly and the vulnerable:

We pray for the members of our families and our community:

## PRAYER

Your creation, O God, is intricate and diverse, and yet it is one in you. As we experience this unity, may we be moved to break down the barriers which separate and fragment us. As one holy people may we make ready for the coming of your reign, where we will know one another as sister and brother, without class or distinction. We make this prayer in confidence, for you have promised to hear us. Amen.

# DECEMBER 23



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Jeremiah 30:21 – 22*

Their prince shall be one of their own,  
their ruler shall come from their midst;  
I will bring him near, and he shall approach me,  
for who would otherwise dare to approach me?  
says the Lord.  
And you shall be my people,  
and I will be your God.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*You shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

You have called us, God, to be your people.  
We rejoice in this holy summons, as we pray:

~ *Come and be our God.*

To expectant parents, the dying, the imprisoned,  
and to all who wait:

To those who devote their lives to works of  
mercy and justice:

To those who struggle to believe:

To those separated from loved ones:  
To all who look forward to your coming  
in glory:

## PRAYER

You sent Jesus to be one of us, O God, so that we could take the risk of approaching you. We praise you for his presence, a tangible sign of your love for us. May our preparation for the celebration of his birth encourage us to a more faithful imitation of his life. We ask this in confident hope. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## READING

### *2 Peter 3:8b – 10*

With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. God is not slow about promises made, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.



## CANTICLE OF MARY

*O Emmanuel, desire of the nations and Savior of all peoples, come and set us free, for you are our God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God with us, in your coming we are redeemed.  
We await your birth and we cry out:

*~ Come and set us free!*

In every generation we long for you anew:  
When we doubt ourselves and your love for us:  
When our efforts toward justice are thwarted  
by our fears:  
When the lure of consumerism masks the  
meaning of this season:  
When we are able to endure our waiting for you  
no longer:

## PRAYER

From the day of our birth, O God, you are with us, surrounding us with your love, drawing us forward into your reign. Let your presence sing out from all creation so that every event, every encounter, reminds us that you are here. Conscious of your abiding love, may we live in union and charity, as we have been called to do. We ask this in the name of Jesus, living sign of your love. Amen.

# DECEMBER 24



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 11:1 – 5*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the  
earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod  
of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill  
the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*

## INTERCESSIONS

The promises of the prophets are now fulfilled.  
Let us prepare to welcome our Savior, as we pray:

~ *Come, Promised of Ages!*

May your Spirit rest upon us, with wisdom  
and understanding:

May your Spirit rest upon us, with counsel  
and might:

May your Spirit rest upon us, with knowledge  
and the fear of the Lord:

May your Spirit rest upon us, with justice  
and faithfulness:

May your Spirit rest upon us, with mercy  
and compassion:

## PRAYER

We have trusted in your promise, O God, and now you come bearing gifts for our salvation and our well-being. We rejoice in the loving kindness and faithful love by which we have come to know you. As we begin now our annual commemoration of the birth of your Son give us the courage to be born again, a new and holy people to sing your praises. We ask this grace through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

# SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

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May God preserve and bless you, and grant  
you all the graces of this holy season.

M. & M. Auley

# CHRISTMAS DAY



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

In the silence of night, God leapt from the heavens.

Emmanuel, God with us!

A child was born of the virgin Mary.

To us is born a Savior.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 24

*Who is the King of glory? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages!*

God owns this planet  
and all its riches.

The earth and every creature  
belong to God.

God set the land on top of the seas  
and anchored it in the deep.

Who is fit to climb God's mountain  
and stand in his holy place?

Whoever has integrity:  
not chasing shadows,  
not living lies.

God will bless them,  
their savior will bring justice.  
These people long to see the Lord,  
they seek the face of Jacob's God.

Stretch toward heaven, you gates,  
open high and wide.  
Let the glorious sovereign enter.

Who is this splendid ruler?  
The Lord of power and might,  
the conqueror of chaos.

Stretch toward heaven, you gates,  
open high and wide.  
Let the glorious sovereign enter.

Who is this splendid ruler?  
The Lord of heaven's might,  
this splendid ruler is God.

### 1 TIMOTHY 3:16

*Astounding mystery at the heart of our faith:  
Emmanuel, God with us!*

Astounding mystery  
at the heart of our faith:

One who appeared in human flesh, alleluia!  
was attested by the Spirit, alleluia!  
seen by angels, alleluia!  
proclaimed to Gentiles, alleluia!  
believed in by the world, alleluia!  
taken up in glory, alleluia!

## READING

### *Galatians 4:3 – 7*

While we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*The Word became flesh and dwells among us.*

## INTERCESSIONS

When peaceful silence lay over all, and night was in the midst of her course, God’s eternal Word leaped into our midst. In wonder and gratitude, we pray.



Astounding grace, all creation rejoices  
in your coming:

*~ Help us to reverence your gift of earth and all with  
whom we share it.*

Boundless love, you chose to be one with us:

*~ As we walk with you, may we know one another  
as sisters and brothers.*

Unseen presence, your mother's voice stirred  
joy in an unborn child:

*~ May we raise our voices for the hidden ones — the  
unborn, the imprisoned,  
the disappeared.*

Healing song, music heralded your birth:

*~ Move your church to a new song of reconciliation  
and forgiveness; of justice  
and faithfulness.*

Vulnerable child, you brought the grace of  
gentleness to our violent world:

*~ Encourage us in our efforts to renew  
our ravaged lands, our war torn countries, our weary  
hearts.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Saving God, on this night we begin our celebration of the birth of Jesus. Fill our hearts with

gratitude for the generosity of his coming. Inspired by his willingness to become human as we are, may we reverence one another as embodiments of your loving presence among us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our living Savior. Amen.

### BLESSING

May the peace of the new born Savior be with us. *Amen.*

May the joy of the angels find voice in us. *Amen.*

May the gift of God to us be given to all whom we serve. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

In the silence of night, God leapt from the heavens.

Emmanuel, God with us!

A child was born of the virgin Mary.

To us is born a Savior.

### DOXOLOGY

PSALM 19:2-7

*Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!*

The sky tells the glory of God,  
tells the genius of God's work.  
Day carries the news to day,  
night brings the message to night,

without a word, without a sound,  
without a voice being heard,  
yet their message fills the world,  
their news reaches its rim.

There God has pitched a tent  
for the sun to rest and rise renewed  
like a bridegroom rising from bed,  
an athlete eager to run the race.

It springs from the edge of the earth,  
runs a course across the sky  
to win the race at heaven's end.  
Nothing on earth escapes its heat.

ISAIAH 9:1-6

*A light has shone among us. Jesus Christ is born!*

The people who walk in darkness  
see a great light;  
on a land shadowed by death  
light now shines.

What joy you bring them! What gladness!  
They celebrate before you  
like workers after harvest,  
like soldiers claiming the spoils.

As on the day at Midian  
you break their captor's prod,  
the bar on their backs,  
the heavy yoke.

Every soldier's boot,  
every blood-soaked uniform  
will be burned as fuel for fire.

For a son is born, a gift to us,  
robed with power, honored with titles:  
Wise Counselor, Divine Hero,  
Father Forever, Prince of Peace.

As he rules from David's throne,  
his power expands  
till there is lasting peace  
with fairness and justice in every age.

This shall come about,  
for the mighty Lord wills it.

## READING

### *Hebrews 1:1 – 4*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, Christ sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Glory to God in the highest! Peace to God's people on earth!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Today we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. With gratitude for this wondrous manifestation of God's love, we sing:

~ *O come, let us adore him!*

*O come, let us adore him!*

*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Jesus, the living bread, was born that we may have life, life to the full:

Jesus, Son of God, was born to teach us that we are children of God and heirs of the kingdom:

Jesus, prince of peace, was born to inaugurate the reign of God's justice and mercy:

Jesus, the reflection of God's glory, was born to share in our humanity:

Jesus, Emmanuel, was born to enflesh God's presence among us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

We come to adore you, Christ our Savior, because, though God, you have chosen to be one of us. We sing our gratitude for the example of your life which gives new meaning to our human experience. We are comforted by your companionship and your promise to be with us always. As we celebrate this day of your birth may wonder take hold of us again, opening our eyes to the marvels of your creation, renewing our desire to imitate the gentleness and peace with which you moved among us. We ask this in your name, Jesus, in whose life we rejoice today. Amen.

### BLESSING

May the peace of the newborn Savior be with us. *Amen.*

May the joy of the angels find voice in us. *Amen.*  
May the gift of God to us be given as gift to all  
whom we serve. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

In the silence of night, God leapt from the  
heavens.  
Emmanuel, God with us!  
A child was born of the virgin Mary.  
To us is born a Savior.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 40:1-12, 14-18

*Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!*

I waited and waited for God.  
At long last God bent down  
to hear my complaint,  
and pulled me from the grave  
out of the swamp,  
and gave me a steady stride  
on rock-solid ground.

God taught me a new song,  
a hymn of praise.  
Seeing all this,  
many will be moved  
to trust in the Lord.

Happy are they who trust in God,  
not seduced by idols  
nor won over by lies.

You do so many wonders,  
you show you care for us,  
Lord my God;  
you are beyond compare.  
Were I to name them all,  
no one could keep track.

You did not seek offerings  
or ask for sacrifices;  
but you drilled ears  
for me to hear.

“Yes,” I said, “I will come  
to live by your written word.”  
I want to do what pleases you;  
your teaching is in my heart.

I celebrate your justice  
before all the assembly;  
I do not hold back the story.  
Lord, you know this is true.



I did not hide in my heart  
your acts of rescue;  
I boldly declared to all  
your truth and care, your faithful love.

Your maternal love  
surrounds me, Lord.  
Your sure and tender care  
protects me always.

Please, Lord, rescue me;  
hurry, Lord, help me.  
Stop my killers, shame them,  
wipe out my bitter enemies.

Let those who jeer at me,  
“Too bad for you!”  
be rewarded with shame.

But let all who seek you  
and count on your strength  
sing and dance and cheer  
“Glory to God!”

Though I am weak and poor,  
God cares for me.  
My help, my savior,  
my God, act now!

## PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

*Ngv" c m"etgc vkqp "ukp i <I nt{"vq "I qf #I nt{  
vq "vj g"p gy dqtp "Uc xkqt#*

Though in the form of God,  
Jesus did not claim  
equality with God  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
human like one of us.

Flesh and blood,  
he humbled himself,  
obeying to the death,  
death on a cross.

For this very reason  
God lifted him high  
and gave him the name  
above all names.

So at the name of Jesus  
every knee will bend  
in heaven, on earth,  
and in the world below,  
and every tongue exclaim  
to the glory of God the Father,  
“Jesus Christ is Lord.”

## READING

### *1 John 1:1 – 3a*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that what was with God and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may be in company with us.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Glory to God in the highest! Peace to God's people on earth!*

## INTERCESSIONS

The angel heralded a sign of hope to the world: “in a manger, you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes.” In wonder, we sing:

~ *Christ the Savior is born!*

*Christ the Savior is born!*

At your coming, a woman and child showed forth your enduring love:

~ *Clothe women and children with your faithful promise to the powerless.*

At your coming, those who walked in darkness  
saw a great light:

~ *Clothe them with heartfelt mercy.*

At your coming, the heavens burst into song  
and the desolate lands rejoiced:

~ *Clothe them with teeming forests and fields, with  
clear waters and skies.*

At your coming, the poor became bearers  
of hope:

~ *Clothe them with dignity.*

At your coming, the leaders of nations knelt to  
see truth in your eyes:

~ *Clothe them with a mantle of justice.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

We come to adore you, Christ our Savior,  
because, though God, you have chosen to be  
one of us. We sing our gratitude for the example  
of your life which gives new meaning to our  
human experience. We are comforted by your  
companionship and your promise to be with us  
always. As we celebrate this day of your birth  
may wonder take hold of us again, opening our  
eyes to the marvels of your creation, renewing

our desire to imitate the gentleness and peace with which you moved among us. We ask this in your name, Jesus, in whose life we rejoice today. Amen.

### BLESSING

May the peace of the newborn Savior be with us. *Amen.*

May the joy of the angels find voice in us. *Amen.*

May the gift of God to us be given as gift to all whom we serve. *Amen.*

*From December 26 through December 31, use the psalms and canticles of Christmas.*

# HOLY FAMILY



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

O God, mother and father to us all,  
we, your children, lift our voices in praise.  
Source of all life and unity,  
make us one in loving you.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 122

*And the child's father and mother were amazed at what  
was being said about him.*

With joy I heard them say,  
“Let us go to the Lord's house!”  
And now, Jerusalem,  
we stand inside your gates.

Jerusalem, the city so built  
that city and temple are one.  
To you the tribes go up,  
every tribe of the Lord.

It is the law of Israel  
to honor God's name.  
The seats of law are here,  
the thrones of David's line.

Pray peace for Jerusalem:  
happiness for your homes,  
safety inside your walls,  
peace in your great houses.

For love of family and friends  
I say, "Peace be with you!"  
For love of the Lord's own house  
I pray for your good.

## READING

### *2 Corinthians 8:9*

For you know the generous act of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for  
your sakes he became poor, so that by his  
poverty you might become rich.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth,  
and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these  
things in her heart.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We raise our voices to you, Triune God, as we pray for families.

You have given us family life as a model for creative and nurturing relationships:

*~ May we foster loving and supportive relationships in our families and communities.*

Our families were our first schools of life and faith:

*~ May those early learnings continue to encourage us along the path of holiness.*

Saint Joseph became the model for foster parents and stepparents:

*~ May they accept responsibility for the raising of children.*

Watch over those families marked by violence or addiction:

*~ Strengthen them as they seek solutions to the ills that afflict them.*

Give solace to those families who have lost children through death or abduction:

*~ Give them courage and hope in the face of their loss.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER



## PRAYER

We give you thanks, our God, for our parents, brothers and sisters in whose company we have come to know you and experience your love. Bless them and all those who have been as family to us, nurturing and sustaining us, calling us to the fullness of life. Rejoicing in the gift of these strengthening relationships, we remember the widow and the orphan, the refugee and the homeless and all those who walk through life alone. For the generosity to welcome them into our circle of support and love, we pray, through the intercession of the Holy Family. Amen.

## BLESSING

May God bless us with forgiving hearts. *Amen.*  
May God bless us with generous spirits. *Amen.*  
May God bless us with peace. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



## GREETING

O God, mother and father to us all,  
we, your children, lift our voices in praise.  
Source of all life and unity,  
make us one in loving you.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 139:1–18, 23–24

*When they had finished everything required by the law,  
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.  
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.*

You search me, Lord, and know me.  
Wherever I sit or stand,  
you read my inmost thoughts;  
whenever I walk or rest,  
you know where I have been.

Before a word slips from my tongue,  
Lord, you know what I will say.  
You close in on me,  
pressing your hand upon me.  
All this overwhelms me —  
too much to understand!

Where can I hide from you?  
How can I escape your presence?  
I scale the heavens, you are there!  
I plunge to the depths, you are there!

If I fly toward the dawn, —  
or settle across the sea,  
even there you take hold of me,  
your right hand directs me.

If I think night will hide me

and darkness give me cover,  
I find darkness is not dark.  
For your night shines like day,  
darkness and light are one.

You created every part of me,  
knitting me in my mother's womb.  
For such handiwork, I praise you.  
Awesome this great wonder!  
I see it so clearly!

You watched every bone  
taking shape in secret,  
forming in the hidden depths.  
You saw my body grow  
according to your design.

You recorded all my days  
before they ever began.  
How deep are your thoughts!  
How vast their sum!  
like countless grains of sand,  
well beyond my grasp.

Search my heart, probe me, God!  
Test and judge my thoughts.  
Look! do I follow crooked paths?  
Lead me along your ancient way.

## READING

### *Deuteronomy 5:16*

Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.*

## INTERCESSIONS AND PRAYER AS IN EVENING PRAYER I

### BLESSING

May God bless us with forgiving hearts. *Amen.*

May God bless us with generous spirits. *Amen.*

May God bless us with peace. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

O God, mother and father to us all,

we, your children, lift our voices in praise.  
Source of all life and unity,  
make us one in loving you.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 112

*When they had finished everything required by the law,  
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.  
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.*

Happy those who love God  
and delight in the law.  
Their children shall be blest,  
strong and upright in the land.

Their households thrive,  
their integrity stands firm.  
A light shines on them in darkness,  
a God of mercy and justice.

The good lend freely  
and deal fairly,  
they will never stumble;  
their justice shall be remembered.

Bad news holds no power,  
strong hearts trust God.  
Steady and fearless,  
they look down on their enemy.

They support the poor,  
their integrity stands firm,  
their strength brings them honor.

Hatred devours the wicked.  
They grind their teeth;  
their hopes turn to ashes.

## READING

### *Philippians 2:6 – 7a*

Jesus, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*When the festival was ended and they started to return,  
the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents  
did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of  
travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to  
look for him among their relatives and friends.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We raise our voices to you, blessed Trinity,  
as we pray for families:

~ *God, three in one, hear our prayer.*

Bless those families striving to live out the ideals of Christian community:

Bless those families who extend your love to others:

Bless those families whose concern encircles the needy and the poor:

Bless those families in need of healing:

Bless those families living in the midst of violence:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

We give you thanks, our God, for our parents, brothers and sisters, in whose company we have come to know you and experience your love. Bless them and all who have been as family to us, sustaining us and calling us to the fullness of life. Rejoicing in these relationships, we remember the widow and the orphan, the refugee and the homeless and all who walk through life alone. For the generosity to welcome them into our circle of love, we pray, through the intercession of the Holy Family. Amen.

## BLESSING

May God bless us with forgiving hearts. *Amen.*

May God bless us with generous spirits. *Amen.*

May God bless us with peace. *Amen.*



DECEMBER 26  
SAINT STEPHEN,  
FIRST MARTYR



MORNING PRAYER

PSALM

*They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.*

READING

*Acts 6:2 – 5a*

The twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"*

## INTERCESSIONS

We rejoice in the salvation which you have made ready for all peoples, and we pray.

Because Stephen reflected your Spirit, he was chosen for the ministry of distribution to the poor:

*~ May that same Spirit encourage us in our efforts to create a world of equal opportunity for all.*

Stephen bore the pains of martyrdom with fortitude and grace:

*~ May we patiently accept the sufferings which enter our lives.*

Stephen chose death rather than deny his faith in Christ:

*~ Make us glad and courageous in our proclamation of the gospel.*

We thank you for the example of those who espouse nonviolence as a way of life:

*~ Let their witness promote peace among the nations.*

We pray for those who suffer persecution  
in our day:

~ *May their suffering call us to acts of justice and  
righteousness.*

We pray for those called to the diaconate:

~ *May they responsibly exercise their ministry of  
service.*

## PRAYER

Faithful God, Stephen was called by the early Christian community to the ministry of care for the neglected. May the faith communities to which we belong be noted for their sensitivity to the needy among us and for the generosity of their response. May the ideal of the common good urge us to gracious sharing of our time and resources so that the needs of all will be met. We ask this through Jesus Christ who shared his life with us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## PSALM

*They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.*

## READING

### *1 John 1:5b, 7*

God is light and in this radiance there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we are in union with one another, and the blood of Christ Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"*

## INTERCESSIONS

Holy God, you who are our light, we lift our prayers to you as the light of this day fades into night. Hear us, as we pray:

~ *Be light for your people.*

As we seek to follow the example of Stephen's fidelity:

As we strive to express our faith with clarity and conviction:

As we work for the end of violence and injustice in our homes, our communities, our society, our church:

As we search for generosity of heart toward  
those who have wronged us:

As we discern how to embody your love  
in our world:

PRAYER AS IN MORNING PRAYER

DECEMBER 27  
SAINT JOHN,  
APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST



MORNING PRAYER

PSALM

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

READING

*Acts 4:19 – 20*

But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, concerning the word of life.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus our Savior, we raise our hearts to you this morning, as we pray.

Because you chose to become human we have been able to see and hear and touch you:

*~ May we encounter you also in the people who fill our lives.*

You inspired Saint John to write of you as a God of love:

*~ May we experience your care for us and reflect it in our words, actions and relationships.*

John was your beloved disciple:

*~ May the young people of our world experience your love.*

You placed your mother in John's protection:

*~ May we offer gentle care to those who need our assistance.*

John was a leader of your early church:

*~ May those who lead the church today be inspired by his example.*

## PRAYER

God of all ages, Alpha and Omega, your revelation to John promises a new heaven and a new earth. Strengthen us for our role in bringing about this new creation. May our words reveal the nearness of your reign; may our acts of mercy hasten the day when, living in peace, we will know that you truly dwell among us. We ask this in confidence, for you have promised it. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## PSALM

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

## READING

### *Romans 8:3 – 4*

God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, God condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled



in us, who walk not according to the flesh  
but according to the Spirit.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we  
have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, concerning  
the word of life.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We have been inspired, O God, by the revelation  
recorded by Saint John, and so we pray.

And the Word became flesh and lived among  
us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as  
of a father's only son, full of grace and truth:

*~ O God, help us to experience your incarnation in  
each person we encounter.*

We declare to you what we have seen and heard  
so that you also may have fellowship with us;  
and truly our fellowship is with the Father and  
with his Son Jesus Christ:

*~ O God, may we be clear and courageous in  
declaring the Good News of salvation.*

For this is the message you have heard from the  
beginning that we should love one another:

*~ O God, be with us as we work toward the  
elimination of racism.*

Jesus said to them, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day”:

*~ O God, reward with eternal life our sisters and family members who have gone before us into the fullness of your life.*

Then Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine but his who sent me”:

*~ O God, may your Spirit enlighten theologians, preachers, teachers, parents and all who interpret your revelation.*

## PRAYER AS IN MORNING PRAYER

DECEMBER 28  
HOLY INNOCENTS,  
MARTYRS



MORNING PRAYER

PSALM

*And he sent and killed all the children in and around  
Bethlehem who were two years old  
or under.*

READING

***Jeremiah 31:15***

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."*

## INTERCESSIONS

Your Word came among us as an innocent child and so we pray to you, our God, for the children of our world:

~ *Protect them with your love.*

For the unborn, that their parents may cherish them and bring them to birth in safety, we pray:

For toddlers who ceaselessly explore and delight in their world, that this spirit of awe and adventure may grow with them, we pray:

For children who live on the streets, that they may receive the food, shelter, love and education they need to become strong, healthy adults, we pray:

For children who suffer from violence in their homes, that caring adults may respond to their needs, we pray:

For adolescents who search for meaning and purpose in their lives, that they may find teachers and mentors to guide them, we pray:

## PRAYER

On this feast of the Holy Innocents we pray, gentle Jesus, for children, especially those who suffer from violence or neglect. You made yourself vulnerable for our sake; may we, in gratitude, protect those who are most vulnerable among us. Strengthen us in our efforts to build

a world where all may grow in safety, where opportunities for education are equally shared, where talent and creativity are nurtured. Let us learn from the children who, like you, are humble of heart. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### PSALM

*And Herod sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under.*

### READING

#### *Ephesians 2:3b – 5*

We were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I*

*tell you; for Herod  
is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”*

## INTERCESSIONS

You cautioned us, O Christ, that we must be like little children in order to enter your kingdom. We pray for the children whose example you invite us to follow.

You chose to become a child for our sake:

*~ May children know you as their friend  
and companion.*

You called the children to your side:

*May children today experience your love through  
caring adults.*

With your parents you fled persecution:

*~ Watch over refugee children and their parents.*

We commemorate today the slaughter of the innocents:

*~ Protect children from all forms of violence.*

You call us to cherish life:

*~ Nurture in us a gentle care for children and young  
people.*

## PRAYER AS IN MORNING PRAYER

# DECEMBER 29



## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

### READING

#### *Hebrews 1:1 – 4*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, Christ sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*But to all who received him, who believed in his name,  
he gave power to become children of God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

As morning breaks we turn to you, Eternal  
Word, Incarnate One:

*~ Listen to our prayer.*

There was no place for them in the inn. For those  
working in the ministry of hospitality and of  
housing and for those who welcome the home-  
less, we pray:

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them.  
For educators, for preachers of the word,  
for all who bring tidings of great joy, we pray:

But the angel said to them, “Do not be  
afraid.” For those who suffer from anxiety  
and depression, we pray:

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered  
them in her heart. For our sisters in the ministry  
of prayer and patient suffering, we pray:

## PRAYER

O God, you who came to earth as an infant,  
touch our hearts once more as we consider the  
Christmas story. May this gospel be ever old,  
ever new within us. Grant us childlike faith and



the spirit of wonder. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### PSALM

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

### READING

#### *1 John 1:1 – 3a*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that what was with God and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may be in company with us.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We know you in many ways, our God:

~ *Come to us today in gifts that dispel our pain.*

We name you light:

~ *Dispel the darkness that disrupts the unity of your church.*

We name you peace:

~ *Dispel the pain of war among the nations of the earth.*

We name you hope:

~ *Dispel the despair of earth's people who are oppressed by injustice, poverty, and ignorance.*

We name you compassion:

~ *Dispel the burdens we carry.*

We name you joy:

~ *Dispel the sadness of our hearts.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, you come to us in various guises: joy, compassion, hope, peace, light. May we, by our imitation of your life, bring these same gifts into our world today. Through our words and actions, may your presence be known among your people. Because you chose to be one with

us, we know that you will hear and answer  
this prayer. Amen.

# DECEMBER 30



## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM

*Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."*

### READING

#### *Isaiah 9:6 – 7*

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Blessed are you, the most high God of Israel,  
for you have visited and redeemed your people.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you are Emmanuel. In you we celebrate  
God with us and we pray:

*~ May we find you, O Christ.*

In our sisters, in our family members, in those  
with whom we minister:

In those wounded by domestic violence  
and abuse:

In those who uphold the dignity and sanctity  
of life:

In those who risk their reputation for the sake  
of the gospel:

In parents, struggling to raise their children:

## PRAYER

God dwelling with us, we pray for the clarity  
of mind and heart that will enable us to discover  
the face of Christ in all those we meet this day.  
In our care for our sisters and brothers may we  
give flesh to our love for you. We ask this in  
the name of Jesus who gave human form to your  
love for us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### PSALM

*Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."*

### READING

#### *2 Peter 1:3 – 4*

God's divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of the One who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus God has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them we may become participants of the divine nature.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*We have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We bring this evening prayer to you, Emmanuel,  
God-with-us.

Listen as we pray:

~ *We behold you.*

In the faces of children:

In the faces of those who are poor and lonely:

In the frailty and weakness of the elderly:  
In those who are unemployed:  
In those whom we have not yet learned to love:  
In those whose lives reveal your gospel:

## PRAYER

Give us the vision, God, to see you in the simple events and situations of our lives and to seek you in our sisters and brothers, especially in the poor and needy. May those who most need our help be the clearest reminders of your presence among us; may our response to their need reveal your loving presence in our world. We ask this through Jesus, your incarnate love. Amen.

# DECEMBER 31



## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM

*God has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them we may come to share in the divine nature.*

### READING

#### *Isaiah 4:2 – 3*

On that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*You believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We praise you, our God, at break of day:

~ *Hear and answer our prayer.*



For leadership that is wise, just and compassionate,  
we pray:

For all who seek the truth and search for God, we  
pray:

For the spirit of simple joy in the hearts of those  
who are poor, we pray:

For welcome and hospitality extended to the  
homeless, we pray:

For faith and confidence that all will be well,  
we pray:

For gratitude for your incarnation, God-among-us,  
we pray:

## PRAYER

We continue to rejoice, Jesus, in the great gift of your birth among us. May wonder and gratitude suffuse our lives, flowing forth in contagious hope and embracing love. May we never tire of reflecting on the mysteries of this holy season, and may our reflections deepen our commitment to follow in the path of mercy you have marked out for us. We ask this in confidence. Amen.

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JANUARY 1  
MARY, THE MOTHER OF  
— — —  
GOD



EVENING PRAYER I

GREETING

God of the dawning, God of the night,  
you are the eternal sun that brightens our  
way.  
Mary, morning star, intercede for us  
that we may offer this gift of praise to God.

DOXOLOGY

PSALM 119:105-112, 169-176

*We are children of God.*

Your word is a lamp for my steps,  
a light for my path.  
I have sworn firmly  
to uphold your just rulings.

I have suffered so much,  
give me the life you promise.

Receive, Lord, all that I say,  
and teach me your wisdom.

Though danger stalks,  
I will never forget your law.  
Though the wicked set traps,  
I will not stray from you.

Your laws are my heritage,  
the joy of my heart for ever.  
I am determined to obey  
for a lasting reward.

I rejoice before you, Lord,  
let your word bring me light.  
Hear my prayer,  
rescue me as you promised.

May praise be on my lips,  
because you taught me your rule.  
May praise be on my tongue,  
because your commands are just.

Reach out and lead me,  
I choose your path.  
I long to be safe, Lord,  
your law is my delight.

May I live to praise you,  
upheld by your word.

If I stray like a lost sheep,

seek out your servant,  
for I never forget your laws.

### 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

*I acclaim the Lord's greatness, source  
of my strength.*

I acclaim the Lord's greatness,  
source of my strength.  
I devour my foe,  
I say to God with joy:  
"You saved my life.  
Only you are holy, Lord;  
there is none but you,  
no other rock like you."

God knows when deeds match words,  
so make no arrogant claims.  
The weapons of the strong are broken,  
the defenseless gain strength.  
The overfed now toil to eat,  
while the hungry have their fill.

The childless bear many children,  
but the fertile learn they are sterile.  
The Lord commands death and life,  
consigns to Sheol or raises up.

God deals out poverty and wealth,  
casts down and lifts up,

raising the poor from squalor,  
the needy from the trash heap,  
to sit with the high and mighty,  
taking their places of honor.

God owns the universe  
and sets the earth within it.  
God walks with the faithful  
but silences the wicked in darkness;  
their power does not prevail.

God's enemies will be broken,  
heaven thunders against them.  
The Lord will judge the earth,  
and give power to the king,  
victory to the anointed.

## READING

### *Galatians 4:3 – 7*

While we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Like Mary, we dispose ourselves to receive God's word  
and to act upon it.*

## INTERCESSIONS

With Mary, we lift our voices to you, most  
loving God:

*~ Be with us, Loving One.*

In the name of all expectant mothers, we pray:

In the name of women struggling for equality  
within church and society, we pray:

In the name of women suffering from violence  
and oppression, we pray:

In the name of women sharing in your creative  
energy, we pray:

In the name of women nurturing others by  
sharing their gifts, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Hear us this night, O God, as we pray on behalf  
of earth's women. May their wisdom, their  
suffering, their joy and their strength be inspira-  
tion for us so that we may meet each of life's  
events with courage and love. We place ourselves  
under the protection of Mary, your mother,

who moved with grace through the events of her life. Through her intercession, we pray. Amen.

### BLESSING

May our God renew us in love. *Amen.*

May our God fill all creation with hope. *Amen.*

May our God gather all peoples in peace. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

God of the dawning, God of the night,  
you are the eternal sun that brightens our  
way.

Mary, morning star, intercede for us  
that we may offer this gift of praise to God.

### DOXOLOGY

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### PSALM 149

*Of Mary was born Jesus, who is called  
the Messiah.*

Sing a new song, you faithful,  
praise God in the assembly.  
Israel, rejoice in your maker,

Zion, in your king.  
Dance in the Lord's name,  
sounding harp and tambourine.

The Lord delights  
in saving a helpless people.  
Revel in God's glory,  
join in clan by clan.  
Shout praise from your throat,  
sword flashing in hand

to discipline nations  
and punish the wicked,  
to shackle their kings  
and chain their leaders,  
and execute God's sentence.  
You faithful, this is your glory!

Hallelujah!

### COLOSSIANS 1:12-20

*Christ is an image of the God we cannot see.*

Give thanks to the Father,  
who made us fit  
for the holy community of light  
and rescued us from darkness,  
bringing us into the realm  
of his beloved Son  
who redeemed us,  
forgiving our sins.



Christ is an image  
of the God we cannot see.  
Christ is firstborn in all creation.

Through Christ the universe was made,  
things seen and unseen,  
thrones, authorities, forces, powers.  
Everything was created  
through Christ and for Christ.

Before anything came to be, Christ was,  
and the universe is held together by Christ.

Christ is also head of the body, the church,  
its beginning as firstborn from the dead  
to become in all things first.

For by God's good pleasure  
Christ encompasses  
the full measure of power,  
reconciling creation with its source  
and making peace by the blood of the cross.

## READING

### *Acts 1:12 – 13a, 14*

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. All these were con-

stantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Because Mary entered fully into her son's mission she became the Mother of Mercy and our model of faith.*

### INTERCESSIONS

With Mary to intercede for us, we pray for the needs of our world.

~ *Mother of God, intercede for them.*

For women who bring forth their children in uncertainty — for refugees and for the homeless, we pray:

For women whose health is jeopardized by bearing new life, we pray:

For women who lack the resources to care for their children, we pray:

For women whose children disappear, we pray:

For women who watch their children suffer and die, we pray:

For women who generously embrace the experience of motherhood, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Your maternal love surrounds us, God, nurturing and sustaining our lives. Inspired by your gentle care, may we offer our support and encouragement to those whom you have called to nurture new life. Give them strength and courage, patience and joy as they tend these most vulnerable members of your body. We offer this prayer through the intercession of Mary who bore your Son Jesus to our world. Amen.

### BLESSING

May our God renew us in love. *Amen.*

May our God fill all creation with hope. *Amen.*

May our God gather all peoples in peace. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

God of the dawning, God of the night,  
you are the eternal sun that brightens our way.  
Mary, morning star, intercede for us  
that we may offer this gift of praise to God.

## DOXOLOGY

— —

## PSALM 138

*Of Mary was born Jesus, who is called  
the Messiah.* —

I thank you with all I am,  
I join heaven's chorus.  
I bow toward your holy temple,  
to praise your name.

By your love and fidelity,  
you display to all  
the glory of your name and promise.  
As soon as I call, you act,  
renewing my strength.

Around the world,  
rulers praise you  
for your commanding word.  
They sing of your ways,  
“Great is your glory, Lord.”

Though high up,  
you see the lowly;  
though far away,  
you keep an eye on the proud.

When I face an opponent,  
you keep me alive.  
You reach out your hand,  
your right hand saves me.

Lord, take up my cause,  
your love lasts for ever.  
Do not abandon  
what your hands have made.

**SIRACH 36:1-7, 13, 16-22**

*You have used us to show your holiness.*

Show us mercy, God of all,  
teach every land to fear you.  
Strike boldly against the enemy,  
display your power.

Make them an example of your glory,  
as we once showed them your holiness.  
Then they will know what we know:  
there is no God but you.  
Forge new signs, new wonders  
with your strong right hand.

Gather every tribe of Jacob  
to reclaim its birthright.  
Be kind to Israel, your firstborn,  
to the people who bear your name.

Deal gently with Jerusalem,  
your holy city,  
where your throne is fixed.  
Fill Zion with your splendor,  
your temple with your glory.

Make real the vision  
prophets spoke in your name;  
keep faith with what you began.  
Reward those who hope in you,  
prove the prophets right.

Answer the pleas of the faithful  
and favor us as always.  
Then the world will know  
that you are God for ever.

## READING

### *Micah 5:2, 4 – Sa*

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the  
strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure,  
for now he shall be great to the ends of the  
earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Because Mary entered fully into her son's mission she became the Mother of Mercy and our model of faith.*

## INTERCESSIONS

With Mary to intercede for us, we pray for the needs of our world.

Mary was chosen to be the Mother of God:

*~ May we embrace our call to bring God to birth in our time and culture.*

Mary was the perfect disciple:

*~ May we gladly walk in the gospel way with Jesus.*

Mary treasured her experiences of God's revelation:

*~ May we be attentive to God's movement in our lives.*

Mary trusted that God's promises to her would be fulfilled:

*~ May we be animated by hope.*

Mary was taken into heaven:

*~ May the sick and dying be consoled by the promise of resurrection.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER



## PRAYER

Faithful God, in Mary you have given us the image of the perfect disciple who received the word of God and acted upon it, modeling for us the rhythm of action and contemplation to which our Mercy vocation calls us. Like her, may we know you dwelling within us; with her, may we bring you forth in our world. We ask this through her intercession, Jesus' mother and ours. Amen.

## BLESSING

May our God renew us in love. *Amen.*

May our God fill all creation with hope. *Amen.*

May our God gather all peoples in peace. *Amen.*

# JANUARY 2 TO EPIPHANY MONDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

*For January 2 to Epiphany, use the psalms and the canticles  
for January 1.*

### PSALM

*In a time of favor I have answered you,  
on a day of salvation I have helped you.*

### READING

#### *Isaiah 49:8 – 10*

In a time of favor I have answered you,  
on a day of salvation I have helped you;  
I have kept you and given you  
as a covenant to the people,  
to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate heritages;  
saying to the prisoners, “Come out,”  
to those who are in darkness, “Show yourselves.”  
They shall feed along the ways,  
on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;  
they shall not hunger or thirst,

neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike  
them down,  
for God who has pity on them will lead them,  
and by springs of water will guide them.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Such is the tender mercy of our God,  
to give light to those who live in darkness.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Christ, you came not as an earthly ruler but  
as a humble servant:

~ *Help us to follow your example.*

For the freedom to live in a simple and  
unencumbered manner, we pray:

For the courage to speak our inner convictions,  
we pray:

For the vision to seek the common good,  
we pray:

For the conviction to act on behalf of those  
who are powerless, we pray:

For the wisdom to realize that small actions  
matter, we pray:

### PRAYER

Jesus, you did not cling to equality with God  
but emptied yourself and came to us in human

form. We celebrate and honor your witness, and we ask for the courage to model our lives on your example. Be with us in our efforts to recreate your love in our world. We ask this as a community gathered in faith and hope. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### PSALM

*In a time of favor I have answered you,  
on a day of salvation I have helped you.*

### READING

#### *Colossians 1:13 – 16*

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Your mercy reaches from age to age.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus is the image of the unseen God, the firstborn of all creation. We honor him as we pray for the grace to reveal God's presence through our lives.

In our efforts to be good stewards of the earth:

~ *Reveal your creative energy in us.*

As we commit ourselves to responsible membership in our church and community:

~ *Reveal your fidelity in us.*

As we respond to those who suffer from the effects of poverty, illness, and lack of education:

~ *Reveal your mercy in us.*

When we welcome strangers and those who live at the margins:

~ *Reveal your hospitality in us.*

In our gratitude for the wonders of creation:

~ *Reveal your graciousness in us.*

## PRAYER

God dwelling with us, we pray for the clarity of mind and heart that will enable us to discover the face of Christ in all those whom we meet this day. In our care for our sisters and brothers may we express your love for them. We ask this in the name of Jesus who gave human form to your love for us. Amen.

# TUESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM

*A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.*

### READING

*Isaiah 62:11b – 12a*

Say to daughter Zion,  
“See, your salvation comes;  
behold, the savior’s reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.”  
They shall be called, “The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of God.”

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you have come to be one with us. We welcome your companionship, and we pray.

You had no human shelter at your birth:

~ *Be with us as we proclaim shelter a basic human right.*

You were the firstborn of creation:

~ *Be with us in our efforts to care for the earth.*

You were nurtured by Mary and Joseph:

~ *Be with us as we stand with earth's children.*

You received homage from shepherds and kings:

~ *Be with us as we build bridges between rich and poor.*

You fulfilled promises and dreams:

~ *Be with us in our hopes and struggles for justice.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, you did not cling to equality with God but emptied yourself and came to us in human form. We celebrate and honor your witness, and we ask for the courage to model our lives on your example. Be with us in our efforts to recreate your love in our world. We ask this as a community gathered in faith and hope. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### PSALM

*May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute.*

### READING

***1 John 1:5b, 7***

God is light and in this radiance there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we are in union with one another, and the blood of Christ Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We are called to walk in God's light. With gratitude and wonder, we pray:

~ *Bathe us in your light.*

For the leaders of our church, our nation and our Institute, we pray:

For teachers and all who open to us the world of learning, we pray:

For women and men who live in the darkness of depression, we pray:



In gratitude for your gifts of the sun, the moon  
and the stars, we pray:

In gratitude for the inspirations of your Spirit,  
we pray:

### PRAYER

The light of a star drew the magi to the stable at Bethlehem. Draw us, alluring God, into your presence where we may kneel and adore, offering you the gifts of our lives. Bathe us in your light, that we may walk in your truth. We ask this through Jesus, who revealed you to the nations. Amen.

# WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

### READING

*Isaiah 45:22 – 24a, 25*

Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth!  
For I am God, and there is no other.  
By myself I have sworn,  
from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness  
a word that shall not return:  
“To me every knee shall bow,  
every tongue shall swear.”  
Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me,  
are righteousness and strength;  
In the Lord all the offspring of Israel  
shall triumph and glory.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*The Lord will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus is born among us. May his Spirit continue to permeate our world.

We pray for the church throughout the world:

~ *Send wisdom and judgment to her leaders.*

We pray for rulers of states and nations:

~ *Send them compassion for their people.*

We pray for all who have lost loved ones:

~ *Send them comfort in their grief.*

We pray for the sick and the dying:

~ *Send them healing and peace.*

We pray for those who feel alone or rejected:

~ *Send them friendship in their isolation.*

## PRAYER

May your manifold Spirit be with us, our God, lighting the way before us. Inspire in us creative and daring ways to meet the needs of your people, and bring ever nearer the realization of your reign. Continue to work your converting love in us; form and re-form us for the purpose you desire. We ask this, as a community united in service. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### PSALM

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

### READING

***Romans 11:33 – 36***

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are God's judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Holy One?

Or who has been God's counselor?”

“Or who has given a gift to the divine, to receive a gift in return?”

For from God and through God and to God are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*The Lord will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you.*

### INTERCESSIONS

The law of the Spirit has set us free. Grateful for our freedom as children of God, we pray.

Jesus, you have freed us from slavery and called us friends:

~ *Inspire us to extend the hand of friendship to those who are lonely and isolated.*

Through the power of reconciliation you freed us from the clutches of sin:

~ *May forgiveness characterize all our relationships.*

Through your birth, death and resurrection you have freed us from the tyranny of death:

~ *May our hope enlighten the cynical.*

By showing us the way of the gospel you have freed us from aimlessness:

~ *May our feet never stray from your path.*

## PRAYER AS IN MORNING PRAYER

# THURSDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM

*God is the guide even of wisdom and the corrector of the wise.*

### READING

#### *Wisdom 7:26 – 30*

For she is a reflection of eternal light,  
a spotless mirror of the working of God,  
and an image of God's goodness.  
Although she is but one, she can do all things,  
and while remaining in herself, she renews  
all things;  
in every generation she passes into holy souls  
and makes them friends of God, and prophets;  
for God loves nothing so much as the person  
who lives with wisdom.

She is more beautiful than the sun,  
and excels every constellation of the stars.  
Compared with the light she is found to  
be superior,  
for it is succeeded by the night,

but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Wisdom is an unfailing treasure for mortals; those who get it obtain friendship with God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God loves those who dwell with wisdom. At the dawning of this day we ask for a dwelling place in the house that wisdom has built.

Wisdom is a reflection of God's active power:

*~ May our lives reflect her loving presence in our world.*

Wisdom renews the world:

*~ Bless us with sensitivity to the needs of the earth.*

Wisdom guides the mind and opens the heart:

*~ Inspire those faced with serious decisions.*

Against wisdom evil cannot prevail:

*~ May the power of goodness prevail in our interactions with one another and with those we serve.*

Wisdom inspired the prophets:

*~ Uphold those who speak out against oppression and injustice.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of Wisdom, infuse into our hearts your light. Give us clarity of speech as we proclaim the good news. Give us clarity of vision that we may find our way to you. Give us clarity of hearing that we may recognize the cries of the needy. Give us discerning spirits that we may know the voice of God speaking within us. May your joy and enthusiasm find a home in us, that we may live in gladness of heart. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## PSALM

*Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

## READING

### ***1 John 5:20***

We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.



## CANTICLE OF MARY

*The abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

## INTERCESSIONS

The Promised One has come. May our hearts be filled with praise.

You are the source of our hope, O Christ:

*~ May we await with patience the fulfillment of your promises.*

You are the font of hospitality, O Christ:

*~ May we welcome friend and stranger alike into our homes.*

You are the harbinger of peace, O Christ:

*~ May we work to heal the fear and the anger that divide us.*

You are the vessel of compassion, O Christ:

*~ May we respond with tenderness to those who are ill.*

You are the Word made flesh, O Christ:

*~ May we be animated to serve the suffering members of your body.*

## PRAYER

God of all peoples, bring forth your reign of peace and justice upon the earth. Gather nations

together to work for the common good of their members. Bless our efforts to bring an end to famine, civil unrest and the exploitation of nature. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

# FRIDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM

*They saw the star in the east and came to adore.*

### READING

#### *Isaiah 61:10 – 11*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
who has clothed me with the garments  
of salvation,  
and has covered me with the robe  
of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom is bedecked with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown to spring  
up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness  
and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall  
proclaim the praise of the Lord.*

## INTERCESSIONS

At dawn we look east to the rising sun. We turn to you, Eternal Dayspring, confident that you hear our prayer:

*~ Jesus, be light in our world.*

For all spiritual leaders, that, filled with the Holy Spirit, their influence may dispel the darkness of our times, we pray:

For refugees, for all victims of war and violence, that they may experience the warmth of love and the effects of deeds of justice, we pray:

For Sisters of Mercy throughout the world, that in our service we may radiate Christ's own joy, peace and hope, we pray:

For each of us, that in this Christmas season we may know within our being the reality of the Word made flesh, we pray:

## PRAYER

Light of the world, penetrate the darkness of indifference and evil and illuminate the goodness and generosity that surround us. May the light of your Spirit, alive in us, lead us to acts that will lighten the burdens of your people and reveal

your presence in our world. We ask these things, confident that you hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### PSALM

*A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.*

### READING

*Acts 10:37 – 39a*

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Even as shadows gather around this day,  
O God, we know the coming of your light. We  
are comforted by your presence, and we pray.  
We are grateful for this day, for its learnings and  
opportunities:

~ *May reflection on our lives reveal your presence.*

The scriptures tell us again the stories  
of Jesus' birth:

~ *Keep fresh within us the wonder his coming  
inspires.*

Simple folk, shepherds, kings and angels  
rejoiced at the coming of the Savior:

~ *May we welcome the richness of diversity in our  
communities.*

You protected the Holy Family from the cruel  
decree of Herod:

~ *Inspire our government officials to respect and  
support family life.*

## PRAYER AS IN MORNING PRAYER

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# SATURDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

### READING

#### *Isaiah 9:6 – 7*

For a child has been born for us, a son given  
to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice  
and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*The glory of the Lord will appear over you.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Our words cannot encompass the fullness of your revelation, O God, and still we seek to know you through our senses and experiences. We pray this morning for sensitivity to the subtle manifestations of your presence:

*~ May we know you.*

Wonderful Counselor, as we respond to the call to service inherent in our life of Mercy:

Mighty God, as we work to eliminate racism, injustice, oppression and violence:

Prince of Peace, as we seek reconciliation among warring tribes and nations, and within our families and communities:

Source of Life, as we urge a more just distribution of earth's goods:

## PRAYER

Jesus came among us as one we could see, hear and touch. Though we cannot see him now, we ask, O God, that through the gifts of our senses and the events of our lives, we may know your indwelling love. Awaken us to the subtle hints of your presence in our world and in all its creatures. May we seek in each encounter the



revelation of your goodness. This we ask through  
Jesus, the clearest manifestation of your love.  
Amen.

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## EPIPHANY



### EVENING PRAYER I

#### GREETING

A star shone in the east.  
Come and worship the newborn Savior.  
Guide us to the source of light.  
O guiding light, bring us home to God.

#### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 27:1-14

*Shine forth in justice and majesty. Let nations and  
peoples worship our God!*

The Lord is my saving light;  
whom should I fear?  
God is my fortress;  
what should I dread?

When the violent come at me  
to eat me alive,  
a mob eager to kill —  
they waver, they collapse.

Should battalions lay siege,  
I will not fear;  
should war rage against me,  
even then I will trust.

One thing I ask the Lord,  
one thing I seek:  
to live in the house of God  
every day of my life,  
caught up in God's beauty,  
at prayer in his temple.

The Lord will hide me there,  
hide my life from attack:  
a sheltering tent above me,  
a firm rock below.

I am now beyond reach  
of those who besiege me.  
In his temple I will offer  
a joyful sacrifice,  
I will play and sing to God.

O God, listen to me;

be gracious, answer me.  
Deep within me a voice says,  
“Look for the face of God!”

So I look for your face,  
I beg you not to hide.  
Do not shut me out in anger,  
help me instead.

Do not abandon or desert me,  
my savior, my God.  
If my parents rejected me,  
still God would take me in.

Teach me how to live,  
lead me on the right road  
away from my enemies.  
Do not leave me to their malice;  
liars breathing violence  
rise to swear against me.

I know I will see  
how good God is  
while I am still alive.  
Trust in the Lord. Be strong.  
Be brave. Trust in the Lord.

#### REVELATION 15:3-4

*Where is the child who has been born king  
of the Jews?*

All you do stirs wonder,  
Lord, mighty God.  
Your ways are right and true,  
ruler of all nations.

Who would not be moved  
to glorify your name?  
For you alone are holy.

All nations will gather,  
bowing low to you,  
for your saving works  
are plainly seen.

## READING

### *2 Timothy 1:9 – 12a, 13*

God saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.*

## INTERCESSIONS

A light in the east led the magi to find Christ.  
May we also draw close to the Holy One whom we seek:

~ *May our search lead to you, O God.*

We seek an open heart, ready to respond to your inspirations:

We seek the ability to value diversity:

We seek the courage to address the injustices affecting developing nations:

We seek a desire for prayer:

We seek the gifts of adoration and wonder:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of all nations, manifest yourself once again to your people. Give us clear vision, that we may see you in all those we meet; give us sensitive hearing that we may perceive your voice speaking through the events of our lives; give us compassionate hearts that we may recreate your loving presence among us. Help us to recognize

the signs that will lead us to you, and give us good companions for the journey. We ask this, confident that you long to show yourself to us. Amen.

### BLESSING

Light of Christ, bring hope to our world. *Amen.*

Light of Christ, illumine our minds that we may see you. *Amen.*

Light of Christ, kindle in us your fire. *Amen.*

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## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

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A star shone in the east.  
Come and worship the newborn Savior.  
Guide me to the source of light.  
O guiding light, bring me home to God.

### DOXOLOGY

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### PSALM 45:2-18

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

A great song fills my heart,

I will recite it to the king,  
my tongue as skilled as the scribal pen.

Unrivaled in beauty,  
gracious in speech —  
how God has blessed you!

Hero, take up your sword,  
majestic in your armor.  
Ride on for truth, --  
show justice to the poor,  
wield your power boldly.

Your weapons are ready;  
nations fall beneath your might,  
your enemies lose heart.

Your throne is as lasting  
as the everlasting God.  
Integrity is the law of your land.

Because you love justice and hate evil,  
God, your God, anoints you  
above your peers with festive oil.

Your clothes are fragrant  
with myrrh and aloes  
and cinnamon flowers.  
Music of strings welcomes you  
to the ivory palace --  
and lifts your heart.

Royal women honor you.  
On your right hand the queen,  
wearing gold of Ophir.

Mark these words, daughter:  
leave your family behind,  
forget your father's house.

The king desires your beauty.  
He is your lord.  
Tyre comes with gifts,  
the wealthy honor you.

The robes of the queen  
are embroidered with gold.  
In brilliant attire  
she is led to the king;  
her attendants follow.  
In high spirits  
they enter the royal palace.

Your sons will inherit  
the throne your fathers held.  
They shall reign throughout the land.

Every age will recall your name.  
This song will fix it in their memory.

### DANIEL 3:56-88

*Out of God's deepest mercy dawn will come from on high.*



Bless God beyond the stars.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, heaven and earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, angels of God.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, highest heavens.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, waters above.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, spirits of God.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, sun and moon.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, stars of heaven.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, rainstorm and dew.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, gales and winds.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, fire and heat.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, frost and cold.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, dew and snow.

Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, ice and cold.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, frost and sleet.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, night and day.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, light and darkness.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, lightning and clouds.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, earth and sea.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, mountains and hills.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, trees and plants.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, fountains and springs.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, rivers and seas.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, fishes and whales.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, birds of the air.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, beasts of the earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, children of earth.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, Israel.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, priests of God.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, servants of God.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, just and faithful souls.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, holy and humble hearts.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God beyond the stars.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, heaven and earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

## READING

### *Isaiah 52:7 – 9, 10b*

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces  
peace,

who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,

—

—

who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted you  
and has redeemed Jerusalem.  
And all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*They knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

### INTERCESSIONS

At daylight’s coming we bring before you,  
God-among-us, our concerns and needs.  
We trust that you know our hearts before  
we speak, and with this confidence we pray.  
A bright light appeared in the heavens:

*~ May we recognize the signs of your presence in creation.*

The magi inquired and searched for its meaning:

*~ Light the paths of all those who search for truth and meaning in their lives.*

They came from afar bearing gifts:

~ *May we know the value of all your gifts — sorrows  
as well as joys.*

Kings brought gold, frankincense and myrrh:

~ *Bless the benefactors who enable our ministries.*

Bowing down, they adored:

~ *Help us to be still and to know that you are God.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER AS IN EVENING PRAYER I

#### BLESSING

Light of Christ, bring hope to our world. *Amen.*

Light of Christ, illumine our minds that we  
may see you. *Amen.*

Light of Christ, kindle in us your fire. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



#### GREETING

A star shone in the east.

Come and worship the newborn Savior.

Guide me to the source of light.

O guiding light, bring me home to God.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 8

*A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels  
of Midian and Ephah.*

Lord our God,  
the whole world tells  
the greatness of your name.  
Your glory reaches  
beyond the stars.

Even the babble of infants  
declares your strength,  
your power to halt  
the enemy and avenger.

I see your handiwork  
in the heavens:  
the moon and the stars  
you set in place.

What is humankind  
that you remember them,  
the human race  
that you care for them?

You treat them like gods,  
dressing them in glory and splendor.  
You give them charge of the earth,  
laying all at their feet:

cattle and sheep,  
wild beasts,  
birds of the sky,  
fish of the sea,  
every swimming creature.

Lord our God,  
the whole world tells  
the greatness of your name.

**TOBIT 13:8-11, 13-15**

*Arise, sing to our God. The glory of the Holy One has  
banished darkness.*

Give witness to God's glory,  
in Jerusalem give praise!  
Jerusalem, holy city,  
God punished you,  
because your citizens did wrong.  
Yet God will spare  
the children of the just.

—

—



Make your praise worthy of God  
who rules the ages,  
that you may be a joyful city  
where the temple rises again,  
where God welcomes every exile  
and loves for ever all who suffer.

A light shining over all the earth  
will draw to your holy name  
distant nations and peoples.  
They will bring gifts  
for the ruler of heaven.

All generations  
will offer sacrifice here.  
They will name you,  
“Chosen Forever!”  
Go now and celebrate  
with the children of the just,  
gathered to praise the living God.

Jerusalem, holy city,  
blest are they who love you  
and delight in your peace,  
blest who mourn when you suffer.  
They shall dance in your streets,  
brimming over with joy.

Bless the Lord who reigns for ever.

## READING

### *Titus 3:4–7*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, God saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit was poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We journey toward you, O God, along the path of Mercy. In gratitude for the comfort of your companionship, we pray.

The magi journeyed together to seek you:

*~ We give you thanks for our sisters with whom we make our way to you.*

You have called us to the ministry of service:

*~ May we freely share our gifts with all those with whom we minister.*

Our world thirsts for meaning and direction:

~ *Help us to encourage all those who seek you.*

Warned by an angel, the magi returned home by a different route:

~ *May we be attentive to the provident ways in which you lead us.*

You have invited us to follow in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley:

~ *May we walk gladly and courageously along this path.* — —

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER AS IN EVENING PRAYER I

#### BLESSING

Light of Christ, bring hope to our world. *Amen.*

Light of Christ, illumine our minds that we may see you. *Amen.*

Light of Christ, kindle in us your fire. *Amen.*  
— -

*From Epiphany to the Baptism of the Lord use the prayers for the corresponding day of the week — January 2 to Epiphany.*

# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

O saving God,  
send your living waters to renew us.  
In Christ we have been born anew,  
to walk as sons and daughters of God.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 68:2-21, 25-36

*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit  
and with power.*

God rises up,  
enemies of heaven scatter:  
they disperse like smoke,  
they melt like wax,  
they perish before God.

But the just are glad,  
they rejoice before God  
and celebrate with song.

Sing to God's name, play hymns!  
God rides the clouds. Send up a song!  
"Lord" is God's name. Rejoice!  
Father to the fatherless,  
defender of widows:  
God in the temple!

God gives the homeless a home,  
sets prisoners free to prosper,  
but the rebellious  
are banished to the wild.

God, when you led your people,  
when you marched in the desert,  
earth shook, heaven rained before you,  
Israel's God, the Lord of Sinai.

You gave us downpours  
to refresh the promised land  
where you nourish your flock.  
Gracious God, you strengthen the weak.

God speaks a word;  
a company of women  
spreads the good news.

Kings and their armies  
run and flee.

Housewives and shepherds  
all share the plunder:  
silver plated doves  
with bright gold wings.

The Almighty blew kings about  
like snow on Mount Zalmon.

Bashan is a sacred peak,  
a mountain of high summits.  
Soaring Bashan, why envy  
the mountain God chose as home,  
a place to live for ever?

With thousands and thousands  
of uncounted chariots  
the Lord came from Sinai  
to Zion's holy temple.

You ascended to the heights,  
you took captives  
and accepted tribute  
from those resisting you.

Bless the Lord each day  
who carries our burden,  
who keeps us alive,  
our God who saves,  
our escape from death.

People watched the procession  
as you marched into your house,  
my Lord, my sovereign God.  
Singers at the head, musicians at the rear,  
between them, women striking tambourines.

Bless God in the assembly,  
all who draw water  
from Israel's spring.  
Little Benjamin leads the princes  
of Judah, Zebulun, and Naphtali.

Use your strength, God,  
as you did for us in the past  
from your house above Jerusalem.  
May rulers bring you gifts!

Rebuke the beast of the Nile,  
wild bulls and their calves.  
Trample those who lust for silver,  
scatter the warmongers.

Envoys will come from Egypt,  
the Cushites will pray to God.

Rulers of earth, sing to God.  
Make music for the Lord  
who rides the clouds,  
whose voice is thunder.

Acknowledge the power of God  
who governs Israel,  
whose strength is in the stormclouds.

You inspire wonder  
in your temple, God of Israel,  
as you fill your people  
with power and might.

Blessed be God!

#### EPHESIANS 1:3-10

*God determined out of love to adopt us through Jesus Christ.*

Bless God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who blessed us from heaven through Christ  
with every blessing of the Spirit.

Before laying the world's foundation,  
God chose us in Christ  
to live a pure and holy life.

God determined out of love  
to adopt us through Jesus Christ  
for the praise and glory of that grace  
granted us in the Beloved.

By Christ's blood we were redeemed,  
our sins forgiven  
through extravagant love.



With perfect wisdom and insight  
God freely displayed the mystery  
of what was always intended:  
a plan for the fullness of time  
to unite the entire universe through Christ.

READING

*1 Corinthians 12:12 – 13*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

CANTICLE OF MARY

*He went about doing good, for God was  
with him.*

INTERCESSIONS

We have been baptized with water and the Spirit. May these gifts continue to refresh and direct our lives.

Be living water for our thirsty hearts:

~ *Comfort us with your presence.*

Be living water for our thirsty minds:

~ *Enlighten us in our search to understand your word.*

Be living water for our thirsty lives:

~ *Refresh us with the assurance of your love.*

Be living water for our thirsty world:

~ *Soothe us with your peace.*

Be living water for our thirsty earth:

~ *Help us to live in harmony with creation.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

--

Pour the power of the Spirit into our lives, O God, that we may be faithful to our baptismal commitments. We have been challenged to renounce the allure of evil; may we, through lives of justice and mercy, proclaim our belief in you. You have endowed us with the gift of faith; may we know ourselves as your children. We have been welcomed into the community of the church; may we contribute to the building up of your body. In company with our sisters and brothers we strain toward the coming of your reign when all will be one in you. Amen.

### BLESSING

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of wisdom. *Amen.*

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of hope. *Amen.*

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of mercy. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

O saving God,  
send your living waters to renew us.  
In Christ we have been born anew,  
to walk as sons and daughters of God.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 95

*And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.*

Come, sing with joy to God,  
shout to our savior, our rock.  
Enter God's presence with praise,  
enter with shouting and song.

A great God is the Lord,  
over the gods like a king.  
God cradles the depths of the earth,  
holds fast the mountain peaks.  
God shaped the ocean and owns it,  
formed the earth by hand.

Come, bow down and worship,  
kneel to the Lord our maker.  
This is our God, our shepherd,  
we are the flock led with care.

Listen today to God's voice:  
"Harden no heart as at Meribah,  
on that day in the desert at Massah.  
There your people tried me,  
though they had seen my work.

"Forty years with that lot!  
I said: They are perverse,  
they do not accept my ways.  
So I swore in my anger:  
They shall not enter my rest."

#### DEUTERONOMY 32:1-12

*May my words cling like dew, like gentle rain upon  
tender grass.*

Hear me, heaven and earth,  
listen to what I say.  
May my thoughts fall like rain,  
may my words cling like dew,  
like gentle rain upon tender grass,  
like showers upon seedlings.  
I will praise the Lord's name,  
I will tell of God's greatness.

God is the rock,  
whose works are perfect,  
whose ways are right,  
a God faithful and true,  
just and without deceit.

But the corrupt and headstrong  
treat God with contempt,  
they are no longer God's children.

Is this how you thank God,  
you slow-witted fools?  
Did God not father you,  
create you, and provide for you?

Remember ancient times,  
think back to ages past.  
Ask your parents; they will tell you,  
your elders will teach you.

When God gave the nations their land,  
dividing the human race,  
the Most High set boundaries for peoples,  
equal to the number of gods.

The Lord adopted Jacob,  
claimed Israel as a people,  
finding them in the wilderness,  
in the wild and howling wasteland,  
enfolding them with care,  
keeping a loving eye on them.

Like an eagle rousing its young,  
hovering over its little ones,  
spreading its wings to carry them,  
to bear them up in flight,  
the Lord alone guided Israel;  
there is no other God.

## READING

### *Isaiah 61:1 – 2a*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
    God has sent me to bring good news  
    to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.*

## INTERCESSIONS

In your baptism, Jesus, we know you as God's chosen one. We rejoice in this revelation of your divinity, as we pray.

You requested baptism from John:

*~ May we recognize in others the power to mediate your grace to us.*

God claimed you as the beloved Son:

*~ Help us to know ourselves as beloved of God.*

You affirmed John's ministry of penance and proclamation:

*~ Give us the generosity to affirm and nurture the gifts of our partners in ministry.*

Your baptism was followed by an experience of temptation:

*~ We pray for your strengthening presence in our times of trial and temptation.*

You invited us to be born anew through the waters of baptism:

*~ Strengthen the faith of catechumens as they prepare to receive this sacrament.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Pour the power of the Spirit into our lives, O God, that we may be faithful to our baptismal commitments. We have been challenged to renounce the allure of evil; may we, through lives of justice and mercy, proclaim our belief in you. You have endowed us with the gift of faith; may we know ourselves as your children. We have been welcomed into the community of the church; may we contribute to the building up of your body. In company with our sisters and brothers we strain toward the coming of your reign when all will be one in you. Amen.

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### BLESSING

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of wisdom. *Amen.*

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of hope. *Amen.*

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of mercy. *Amen.*

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## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

O saving God, —  
send your living waters to renew us.  
In Christ we have been born anew,  
to walk as sons and daughters of God.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 98

*And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up  
from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him  
and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and  
alighting on him.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
the Lord of wonderful deeds.  
Right hand and holy arm  
brought victory to God.

God made that victory known,  
revealed justice to nations,  
remembered a merciful love  
loyal to the house of Israel.  
The ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Shout to the Lord, you earth,  
break into song, into praise!  
Sing praise to God with a harp,  
with a harp and sound of music.  
With sound of trumpet and horn,  
shout to the Lord, our king.

Let the sea roar with its creatures,  
the world and all that live there!  
Let rivers clap their hands,  
the hills ring out their joy!

The Lord our God comes,  
comes to rule the earth,  
justly to rule the world,  
to govern the peoples aright.

### EXODUS 15:1-18

*By your love you guide the people you redeemed.*

I sing of the Lord,  
great and triumphant:  
horse and rider  
are cast into the sea!

The Lord is my strength,  
the Lord who saves me —  
this is the God I praise,  
the God of my ancestor.

True to the name “Lord,”  
our God leads in battle,  
hurls Pharaoh’s chariots  
and army into the sea.

The best of their warriors  
sink beneath the Reed Sea,  
sink like rocks to the bottom,  
lie covered by the deep.

Your right arm, Lord,  
is majesty and power,  
your raised right arm  
shatters the enemy.

Awesome your power:  
you hurl down enemies,  
you blaze forth in anger  
to consume them like stubble.

One blast from your nostrils  
and the waters pile high,  
the waves pull back  
to stand firm as a wall.

The enemy thinks, “Pursue them,  
seize them and all they have,  
feast on all their wealth,  
draw the sword and destroy them.”

But you send another blast;  
the sea swallows them,  
like lead they sink  
in the terrifying waters.

Who can rival you, Lord,  
among the gods?  
Who can rival you,  
terrifying in holiness?

Awesome this story,  
fearful your wonders:  
you stretched out your hand,  
the earth swallowed them.

By your love you guide  
this people you redeemed,  
your power clears their path  
to your holy place.

When nations hear, they shudder;  
the Philistines writhe in fear,  
all the princes of Edom  
tremble in their terror,

all the chiefs of Moab  
shake beyond control,  
all the people of Canaan  
melt away in dread.

Your mighty arm strikes terror,  
they fall silent as stone,  
while your people, Lord, cross over,  
your own people cross over.

You brought and planted them, Lord,  
on the mountain you chose,  
where you make your dwelling,  
the temple you built by hand.

The Lord rules for ever and ever!

## READING

### *Acts 10:37 – 39a*

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.*

INTERCESSIONS AND PRAYER  
AS IN MORNING PRAYER

BLESSING

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of wisdom. *Amen.*

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of hope. *Amen.*

O Christ, well of living water, let us drink of mercy. *Amen.*

FEBRUARY 2  
PRESENTATION OF THE  
LORD



EVENING PRAYER I

GREETING

O God, gather your people.  
Open our lips to sing your praise.  
Loving God of all creation,  
receive this offering of love.

DOXOLOGY

PSALM 87

*Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to present  
him to God.*

Zion is set on the holy mountain.  
The Lord loves her gates  
above all the dwellings of Israel.  
Great is your renown, city of God.

I register as her citizens  
Egypt and Babylon,

Philistia, Ethiopia, and Tyre:  
“Each one was born in her.”

People will say, “Zion mothered  
each and every one.”  
The Most High protects the city.

God records in the register,  
“This one was born here.”  
Then people will dance and sing,  
“My home is here!”

## READING

### *Hebrews 10:5 – 7*

When Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
Then I said, ‘See, God, I have  
come to do your will.’”

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*This child is destined to be a sign that will be opposed so  
that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and  
a sword will pierce your  
own soul too.*



## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, in keeping with the law of Moses, your parents presented you in the temple. In prayer, we present ourselves to you:

~ *Here I am. I come to do your will.*

We have heard your call to baptism and to religious profession, and we reply:

We have heard your invitation to a life of service, and we reply:

We have heard your lament for your suffering people, and we reply:

We have heard your yearning for faithful hearts, and we reply:

We have heard your call to union and charity, and we reply:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

You have called us, God, to a life of merciful service. We present to you our talents, our energies, our beliefs. Use them for the salvation of your people. May all that we say and do hasten the day when your reign will break out among us. Meanwhile, accept the gift of our hearts, entirely devoted to you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## BLESSING

May Christ surround us with love. *Amen.*

May Christ transform us in love. *Amen.*

May Christ send us forth to proclaim God's love. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



## GREETING

O God, gather your people.  
Open our lips to sing your praise.  
Loving God of all creation,  
receive this offering of love.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 136:1-9, 10-26

*Anna began to praise God and to speak about the child  
to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

Our God is good, give thanks!  
God's love is for ever!  
Our God of gods, give thanks!  
God's love is for ever!  
Our Lord of lords, give thanks!  
God's love is for ever!

Alone the maker of worlds!  
God's love is for ever!  
Architect for the skies!  
God's love is for ever!  
Spread land on the sea!  
God's love is for ever!

Set the great lights above!  
God's love is for ever!  
The sun to rule the day!  
God's love is for ever!  
The moon and stars, the night!  
God's love is for ever!

Struck down Egypt's firstborn!  
God's love is for ever!  
Guided Israel's escape!  
God's love is for ever!  
Held out a mighty arm!  
God's love is for ever!

Split in two the Red Sea!  
God's love is for ever!  
Led Israel across!  
God's love is for ever!  
Drowned Pharaoh and his troops!  
God's love is for ever!

Led the desert trek!  
God's love is for ever!  
Struck down mighty tribes!  
God's love is for ever!  
Killed powerful kings!  
God's love is for ever!

Sihon, the Amorite king!  
God's love is for ever!  
And Og, Bashan's king!  
God's love is for ever!  
Gave Israel a land!  
God's love is for ever!  
For Israel to keep!  
God's love is for ever!

Remembered our distress!  
God's love is for ever!  
Kept us from defeat!  
God's love is for ever!  
God feeds all living things!  
God's love is for ever!  
God in heaven, be thanked!  
God's love is for ever!

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READING

*Malachi 3:1*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek

will suddenly come to the temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, your parents presented you in the temple. We present ourselves to you, as we pray.

Mary and Joseph incorporated you into the House of Israel:

~ *May all parents accept responsibility for the religious formation of their children.*

Mary and Joseph made the ritual offering of the poor:

~ *May Christian homes be the first schools of justice and compassion.*

Anna and Simeon long awaited your coming:

~ *Bless those who live in hopeful expectation of seeing you face to face.*

Anna and Simeon recognized you as the Christ:

~ *Help us to recognize and affirm your presence in those we meet.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

We pray, God, for parents who bear responsibility for incorporating their children into your body, the church. May their own faith be strengthened in this process, and may the life of each family reflect your trinitarian love. May we find in these Christian homes, reminders of the unity and peace to which you call us. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

### BLESSING

May Christ surround us with love. *Amen.*

May Christ transform us in love. *Amen.*

May Christ send us forth to proclaim God's love. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

O God, gather your people.  
Open our lips to sing your praise.  
Loving God of all creation,  
receive this offering of love.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 103

*Anna began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

My soul, bless the Lord,  
bless God's holy name!  
My soul, bless the Lord,  
hold dear all God's gifts!

Bless God, who forgives your sin  
and heals every illness,  
who snatches you from death  
and enfolds you with tender care,  
who fills your life with richness  
and gives you an eagle's strength.

The Lord, who works justice  
and defends the oppressed,  
teaches Moses and Israel  
divine ways and deeds.

The Lord is tender and caring,  
slow to anger, rich in love.  
God will not accuse us long,  
nor bring our sins to trial,  
nor exact from us in kind  
what our sins deserve.

As high as heaven above earth,

so great is God's love for believers.  
As far as east from west,  
so God removes our sins.

As tender as father to child,  
so gentle is God to believers.  
The Lord knows how we are made,  
remembers we are dust.

Our days pass by like grass,  
our prime like a flower in bloom.  
A wind comes, the flower goes,  
empty now its place.

God's love is from all ages,  
God's justice beyond all time  
for believers of each generation:  
those who keep the covenant,  
who take care to live the law.

The Lord reigns from heaven,  
rules over all there is.  
Bless the Lord, you angels,  
strong and quick to obey,  
attending to God's word.

Bless the Lord, you powers,  
eager to serve God's will.  
Bless the Lord, you creatures,  
everywhere under God's rule.  
My soul, bless the Lord!



## READING

### *Hebrews 4:15 – 16*

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.*

## INTERCESSIONS AND PRAYER AS IN MORNING PRAYER

### BLESSING

May Christ surround us with love. *Amen.*

May Christ transform us in love. *Amen.*

May Christ send us forth to proclaim God's love. *Amen.*

# SEASON OF LENT

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Mortify in me, dear Jesus, all that  
displeases thee, and make me according  
to thine own heart's desire.

M. & M. Auley

# ASH WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING

O God, purify my lips  
that I may sing your praise.  
Saving God, come near to us.  
Give us new hearts that we may love  
as Jesus loved.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 31

*Return to me with your whole heart. I shall be your God  
and you shall be my people.*

Shelter me, Lord,  
save me from shame.  
Let there be justice:  
save me!

Help me! Listen!  
Be quick to the rescue!  
Be my fortress, my refuge.

You, my rock and fortress,  
prove your good name.  
Guide me, lead me,  
free me from their trap.

You are my shelter;  
I put myself in your hands,  
knowing you will save me,  
Lord God of truth.

You hate the slaves of idols,  
but I trust in you.  
I dance for joy at your constant love.

You saw me suffer,  
you know my pain.  
You let no enemy cage me,  
but set my feet on open ground.

Pity me, Lord,  
I hurt all over;  
my eyes are swollen,  
my heart and body ache.

Grief consumes my life,  
sighs fill my days;  
guilt saps my strength,  
my bones dissolve.

Enemies mock me,  
make me the butt of jokes.  
Neighbors scorn me,  
strangers avoid me.  
Forgotten like the dead,  
I am a shattered jar.

I hear the crowd whisper,  
“Attack on every side!”  
as they scheme to take my life.

But I trust in you, Lord.  
I say, “You are my God,  
My life is in your hands.”  
Snatch me from the enemy,  
ruthless in their chase.

Look on me with love,  
save your servant.  
I call on you;  
save me from shame!

Shame the guilty,  
silence them with the grave.  
Silence the lips that lie,  
that scorn the just.

How rich your goodness  
to those who revere you!  
The whole world can see:  
whoever seeks your help  
finds how lavish you are.

You are shelter from gossips,  
a place to hide from busy tongues.  
Blessed be the Lord!  
God's love encircles me  
like a protecting wall.

I said too quickly,  
"God has cut me off!"  
But you heard my cry  
when I prayed for help.

Love the Lord, all faithful people,  
the Lord your guardian,  
who fully repays the proud.  
Be strong, be brave,  
all who wait for God.

### TOBIT 13:1-8

*Act justly before God, who may yet respond with pardon  
and delight.*

Blest be the living God,  
reigning for ever,  
who strikes, then heals,  
casts deep into the grave,  
and raises up from utter ruin;  
no one eludes God's hand.

Praise God, Israel,  
among the nations  
where you are scattered.

Announce God's greatness  
wherever you are.  
Extol the Lord to everyone:  
the Lord is our God,  
who fathered us,  
God for ever.

Once God punished you  
because you did wrong.  
Now God comforts all of you  
and gathers you from the nations  
where you have been scattered.

When you turn your heart and mind  
to live rightly before God,  
then God will turn to you  
and never hide again.

Match your praise  
to all God has done for you.  
Bless the Lord of justice,  
who rules for ever.

Though captive, I praise the Lord.  
I tell a sinful nation  
how strong and great God is.

Sinners, turn back,  
act justly before God,  
who may yet respond  
with pardon and delight.



As for me, I extol the Lord,  
my heart rejoices in God Most High.  
Give witness to God's glory,  
in Jerusalem give praise!

## READING

### *Isaiah 58:6 – 11*

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and God will say,  
Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness

and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*In an acceptable time I have heard you;  
on a day of salvation I have been your help.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, you ask of us repentance and conversion of life. At the beginning of this holy season may we embrace the fullness of our life in Christ Jesus:

~ *Create in us new hearts, O God.*

In a world of violence and denial of basic human dignity, may we be lights in the darkness:

In a world of abundance which allows children to go hungry, may we work to banish famine and malnutrition:

In a world which places ambition and the quest for wealth and power above the values of family and faith, may we stand as witnesses that you are the source of all true happiness:

In a world where disagreements and longstanding enmities are resolved by war and civil disruption, may we be reconcilers and unifiers:

In a world created through your love and charged with your presence, may we teach others to see your face in all people and all creation:

In a world which hungers for meaning and searches for you, may we accompany those journeying to baptism and support them through our prayer and witness:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Gracious God, in baptism we were made your daughters and sons. We were called to live lives worthy of our calling. Throughout this Lenten season, may we put aside all that keeps us from responding freely to your love. May our deeds and words give glory to you and draw others to your family of faith. Now is the acceptable time, O Lord. Give us the courage to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with you. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

Purify our hearts, O God, that we may be freed from sin. *Amen.*

Renew our hearts, O God, that they may burn  
with love for you. *Amen.*

Open our hearts, O God, that we may welcome  
all persons as our brothers and sisters. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING

O God, purify my lips  
that I may proclaim the good news of Jesus.  
Saving God, let your healing waters flow over me.  
Wash me in the blood of Christ Jesus.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 137

*We follow a crucified Lord. In his wounds we are made  
whole.*

By the rivers of Babylon  
we sat weeping,  
remembering Zion.  
There on the poplars  
we hung our harps.

Our captors shouted  
for happy songs,  
for songs of festival.  
“Sing!” they cried,  
“the songs of Zion.”

How could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
in a foreign land?

Jerusalem forgotten?  
Wither my hand!  
Jerusalem forgotten?  
Silence my voice!  
if I do not seek you  
as my greatest joy.

Lord, never forget  
that crime of Edom  
against your city,  
the day they cried,  
“Strip! Smash her to the ground!”

Doomed Babylon, be cursed!  
Good for those who deal you  
evil for evil!  
Good for those who destroy you,  
who smash your children at the walls.

## EZEKIEL 36:24-28

*God, you make all things new. Wash us, cleanse us,  
breathe your Spirit into us.*

I will draw you from the nations,  
gather you from exile  
and bring you home.

I will wash you in fresh water,  
rid you from the filth of idols  
and make you clean again.

I will make you a new heart,  
breathe new spirit into you.  
I will remove your heart of stone,  
give you back a heart of flesh.

I will give you my own spirit  
to lead you in my ways,  
faithful to what I command.

Then you will live in the land,  
the land I gave your ancestors.  
You will be my people  
and I will be your God.

## READING

*Deuteronomy 26:16 – 19*

This very day the Lord your God is commanding  
you to observe these statutes and ordinances;

so observe them diligently with all your heart and with all your soul. Today you have obtained the Lord's agreement: to be your God; and for you to walk in God's ways, to keep his statutes, commandments and ordinances, and to obey him. Today the Lord has obtained your agreement: to be his treasured people, as was promised you, and to keep the commandments; for God set you high above all nations, in praise, in fame and in honor; and for you to be a people holy to the Lord your God, as was promised.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*I myself will shepherd you, leading you home from exile.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Faithful God, you bring us to the beginning of another Lent. We pray that this holy season will be for us a time of renewed fidelity to you:

~ *Renew and refresh us, O Lord.*

In our service of the poor, sick, and ignorant:

In the daily events of our community life:

In our personal and communal prayer:

In our commitment to lives of poverty, celibacy, and obedience:

In our quest for a more just social order:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

Faithful God, may the renewal of our covenant with you, through prayer and fasting, bring us closer to you and to your people. We ask your help to remain faithful to our commitments and to grow in generosity and courage. We make this prayer in union with Jesus, whose passion, death, and resurrection opened the way for us. Amen.

## BLESSING

Through Jesus Christ may we be set free from sin's captivity. *Amen.*

With Jesus Christ may we be sent forth as witnesses to the love of God poured forth on us. *Amen.*

In Jesus Christ may we be born to new life. *Amen.*



# THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

*Throughout the Lenten Season, use the Morning and Evening Prayer as in the Psalter, substituting the readings, intercessions, and prayers for Lent. Supplemental psalms and canticles appropriate for Lent may also be chosen.*

### READING

#### ***1 Kings 8:51 – 53***

For they are your people and heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron-smelter. Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant, and to the plea of your people Israel, listening to them whenever they call to you. For you have separated them from among all the peoples of the earth, to be your heritage, just as you promised through Moses, your servant, when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt, O Lord God.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*If you want to become my follower, you must deny yourself  
and take up your cross and follow me.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. That we may experience your saving love, we pray.

Jesus, free us to embrace the rhythm of our lives, joys and sorrows mingled:

*~ You are the Savior of the world.*

Jesus, prevent us from contributing to the burdens carried by our brothers and sisters:

Jesus, help us to move beyond ethnic conflicts to the richness of intercultural sharing:

Jesus, strengthen those who carry the cross of sickness, in mind or body:

Jesus, bring healing to those who have suffered the death of their loved ones:

## PRAYER

Catherine McAuley taught us that the humble, abandoned, agonizing Christ is our Christ. Jesus, give us the courage to glory in your cross and to die with you, so that we may share in your resurrection. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

*James 4: 7 – 8, 10*

Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Saving God, we come to you confident of your unfailing love for us:

*~ Strengthen our hope for eternal life  
with you.*

When we experience times of personal doubt and confusion:

When we are faced with accidents, tragedies, or natural disasters:

When we lose friends and loved ones in death:  
When we receive diagnoses of serious illness:  
When we struggle in oppressive situations:

#### PRAYER

O God, we place ourselves in your hands without reserve. Help us draw near to you through prayer and good works, that we may one day enjoy the fullness of life with you forever. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Savior, who gave his life that we might find ours. Amen.

# FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 53:11b – 12*

The righteous one, my servant, shall make  
many righteous,  
and shall bear their iniquities.  
Therefore I will allot my servant 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 this servant bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O Jesus, righteous one, you taught us to bear  
wrongs patiently and to love those who harm

us. Sometimes our pride even prompts us to feel injury where none was intended, and so we pray:

*~ Jesus, help us to see and love you in our brothers and sisters.*

When we are overlooked by our companions and co-workers:

When those to whom we minister complain or take our services for granted:

When others are preferred before us, for praise or honor:

When the burdens and responsibilities of ministry seem unfair:

When the actions of others cause us personal harm:

## PRAYER

O Jesus, Catherine McAuley founded our Institute on Calvary, in order to serve you as our crucified Redeemer. Help us to be faithful to the inspiration of her life by bearing wrongs patiently and by seeking you in the daily experience of our Mercy mission. We ask this through the intercession of Catherine and all the women of Mercy who have preceded us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

*James 5:16, 19 – 20*

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.*

### INTERCESSIONS

El Shaddai, God of reconciling love, be with us this night as we recall the many ways we have sinned against you:

~ *El Shaddai, have mercy on us.*

We ask forgiveness for our failures in charity to our friends, companions and co-ministers:

We ask forgiveness for the many times we have failed to stand in solidarity with those who are poor, sick, and ignorant:

We ask forgiveness for the many times we have judged one another unjustly, condemning those things we did not understand:

We ask forgiveness for the attitudes of racism which alienate us from one another:

We ask forgiveness for carelessly depleting the resources of the earth:

#### PRAYER

O God, through your mercy we are forgiven and made whole; through the example of Christ we are shown the way of peace and reconciliation; through the power of the Spirit we are enabled to persevere in doing good. Be with us this night and throughout our lives. Amen.



# SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 1:16 – 18*

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your doings from before  
my eyes;  
cease to do evil, learn to do good;  
seek justice, rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord:  
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be  
like snow;  
though they are red like crimson, they shall  
become like wool.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*When you give alms, do not let your left hand know  
what your right hand is doing.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Awakening to this Lenten morning, we give thanks to you, gracious God, and turn to your beloved Son in our need.

Jesus, you gathered people together for teaching and healing:

*~ We thank you for our Mercy Institute, for all the opportunities it affords us to serve your human family through education, healthcare, pastoral and social services, and we ask your grace to serve well.*

Jesus, you challenged the corrupt authorities of your day:

*~ We thank you for world, church, national and community leaders and ask that your wisdom and courage guide their actions toward peace.*

Jesus, you touched the man born blind and gave him sight:

*~ We thank you for the gift of sight and ask to see new ways to release those held captive by disease, addiction, poverty, prejudice and unjust social systems.*

Jesus, you called Lazarus forth to new life:

*~ We thank you for the gift of life and ask that you give us energy to overcome apathy and false comfort.*

Jesus, you passed through death that all people might live as God's beloved daughters and sons:

*~ We thank you for the gift of human dignity and ask that we may act in harmony and interdependence with all creation.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, through your example you taught us how to do good and to counter evil. Help us to persevere in this holy path that we may one day be united with you for all eternity. We make this prayer with hearts full of hope in that blessed day. Amen.

# SUNDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## EVENING PRAYER I

### READING

#### *2 Corinthians 6:1 – 4a*

We urge you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For God says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, as we carry out our mission of Mercy, may we be ever mindful of your grace which sustains and guides our ministries:

~ *Pour out your mercy through us.*

May we be guided by prayerful consideration  
of the needs of our time:

May we be guided by Catherine McAuley's  
preferential love for the poor:

May we be guided by Catherine McAuley's  
special concern for women:

May we be guided by the pastoral priorities  
of the universal and local church:

May we be guided by a knowledge of our  
talents, resources and limitations:

## PRAYER

Jesus, we recognize our own weakness, and we know that only through your mercy can we be merciful. In time of trial, in the midst of our daily work, whenever we feel doubt or confusion, enlighten and strengthen us so that we may do your holy will. May our deeds of mercy express your mercy to a suffering world. We make this prayer with gratitude for your unfailing goodness to us. Amen.

## MORNING PRAYER



### READING

*Nehemiah 8:9b, 10b*

This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep. This day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.*

### INTERCESSIONS

As morning breaks, we sing to you, O God.  
This sabbath fills us with praise and wonder for  
your goodness. With love we pray:

~ *Be with us, Savior God.*

You invite us to a time of solitude and prayer:

You invite us into the desert to find you:

You invite us to reject the bread that does not  
lead to eternal life:

You invite us to worship you in spirit and  
in truth:

You invite us to recognize that all power comes from you:

You invite us to accept your presence and support in our lives:

## PRAYER

Jesus, our Savior, this season of Lent provides us with a new opportunity to renew our spirits in the light of your example of prayer and penance. Help us to resist temptation from every source and to draw closer to you during these forty days. We ask this with confidence in your constant care for us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER II



## READING

### *1 Corinthians 9:24 – 25*

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*The gate is narrow, and the road is hard that leads to life.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Lord Jesus, you came that we might have fullness of life:

*~ Save your people, Lord.*

For people dying from lack of adequate nutrition and health care, we pray:

For people suffering from longstanding religious and ethnic hatred, we pray:

For people fleeing from repressive regimes, we pray:

For people searching for meaningful employment, we pray:

For people longing for human rights and self-determination, we pray:

For people hungering for a knowledge of you, we pray:

## PRAYER

Jesus, recalling your words that you are one with your suffering members, we see you in the faces of many peoples. Enlighten and guide us so that we may use our Mercy ministries as a means of helping them and serving you. We ask this in your name. Amen.



# MONDAY

## FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



### MORNING PRAYER

#### READING

##### *Exodus 19:4 – 6a*

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.

#### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.*

#### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, light of the world, you sent forth your disciples to proclaim your message in words and deeds. Help us become bearers of your light through our lives and ministries:

~ *Hear us, O Christ.*

For church and world leaders, that they may bring the light of justice to the poor who are in darkness, we pray:

For the leaders of our Institute, that they may inspire us to be light to those who are poor, sick, and ignorant, we pray:

For each sister and associate, that we may live as children of the light, revealing love and mercy, we pray:

For all our friends and co-workers, that the spirit of mercy may enlighten their daily lives, we pray:

For all the people whom we serve, that they may always know the presence of the God who is their light and their salvation, we pray:

## PRAYER

O loving God, help us to renew our covenant with you through prayer and penance during this Lenten season. You invite us to be your chosen people, but too often we turn aside to other gods, enamored with passing pleasures and this world's goods. Draw us close to you that we may be your holy people in word and deed. This we ask with confidence in the guidance of your Spirit. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Romans 12:1 – 2*

I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Strong and faithful God, you call us to continual conversion, and we respond in hope:

~ *Saving God, hear us.*

In the wilderness of uncertainty, injustice, crime and violence, we pray:

In the desert times of illness, loneliness and loss of loved ones, we pray:

In the midst of world hunger, war, homelessness and greed, we pray:

In thanksgiving for our baptism into the life of discipleship, we pray:

In support of all those preparing for baptism and full communion in the church, we pray:

### PRAYER

Loving God, you are rich in mercy for all those who suffer. Help us to recognize and serve you in the poor, sick and ignorant. Teach us to discern your will — whatever is good and acceptable and perfect — in all that we do. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our way, our truth and our life. Amen.

# TUESDAY

## FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



### MORNING PRAYER

#### READING

##### *Joel 2:12 – 13*

Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to your God,  
who is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

#### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

#### INTERCESSIONS

O God, aware of the challenges we will face this day, we pray:

~ *Show us your steadfast love.*

That we may acknowledge our failings with humility and confidence in you, we pray:

That we may forgive all injuries and overlook all wrongs, we pray:

That we may respond with compassion to all who are troubled in mind or body, we pray:

That we may use the resources of our earth with concern for the needs of others, we pray:

That we may share our talents and resources generously with others, we pray:

## PRAYER

O God, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the example of Jesus, who dined with sinners and reached out to strangers, you teach us to value the dignity of each person. Help us to show love to all whom we meet today, whatever their need or condition. We ask this with confidence in your steadfast love. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## READING

*James 2:14–17*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked

and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ, you testified on all occasions a tender love for the poor, and declared that you would consider as done to you whatever we do for them. Help us to serve the poor with words and deeds of compassion:

~ *Give us compassionate hearts and willing hands.*

You call us to share our bread with the hungry and to question the reasons for hunger:

You call us to shelter the homeless and to remedy the causes of homelessness:

You call us to clothe the naked and to challenge the inequities that exist among the members of the human family:

You call us to visit the imprisoned and to speak out against the injustices that imprison humankind:

You call us to visit the sick and dying and to advocate humane health care for all people:

### PRAYER

Jesus, we pray for an increase in understanding of the needs of our brothers and sisters and for the courage to confront the social conditions that contribute to their suffering. May our faith be practical, measured by our deeds as well as by our words. May our ministries of health care, education and social and pastoral work further the well-being of our sisters and brothers. We ask this with confidence in your unending love for your people. Amen.



# WEDNESDAY

## FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



### MORNING PRAYER

#### READING

##### *Deuteronomy 4:29b – 31*

You will find your God, if you search after him with all your heart and soul. In your distress, when all these things have happened to you in time to come, you will return to the Lord your God and heed him. Because the Lord is merciful, God will neither abandon you nor destroy you; neither will God forget the covenant with your ancestors.

#### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.*

#### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, your prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the sea monster, as you spent three

days in the tomb. From the darkness of the grave, as from the depths of the sea, new life came forth:

*We place our trust in you.*

In times of personal darkness, when you seem far away:

In our search for ways to serve the needy more effectively:

When confronted with indifference and opposition to the works of mercy:

When the efforts of peacemakers are frustrated by prejudice and animosity:

When those whom we love and serve are sick or dying:

## PRAYER

Loving God, we seek you with our whole heart and soul. May our Lenten pilgrimage bring us to Easter joy, along the path of prayer and good works. We make our request in the name of Jesus who has gone before us in the way of salvation. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 John 1:8 – 9*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus said: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, by your life on earth you taught us that love is central to the Christian vocation. You have called us to this Mercy community in which we experience the union and charity that Catherine McAuley bequeathed to us.

When breaches of charity occur among us:

~ *Help us to speak the truth in love.*

When misunderstandings threaten our unity:

~ *Help us to bring prayer and patience to the restoration of harmony.*

When differences of opinion manifest themselves:

~ *Help us to live together in affection and mutual respect.*

When we are discerning issues of community importance:

~ *Help us to listen openly to one another and seek the common good.*

When the poor and the afflicted cry out to us:

~ *Help us to share our lives and resources with them as a sign of your great love for them.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, our teacher and brother, you have given us the grace of a vocation to Mercy, not for ourselves alone, but in order to draw others to you through lives of prayer and service. May we witness daily to your love for all your children, especially those who are most in need. We make this prayer with confidence in your abiding love for us. Amen.

# THURSDAY

## FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



### MORNING PRAYER

#### READING

##### *Wisdom 11:23 – 24a*

But you are merciful to all, for you can  
do all things,  
and you overlook people's sins, so that they  
may repent.  
For you love all things that exist,  
and detest none of the things that you have made.

#### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to  
your children, how much more will your Father in  
heaven give good things to those who ask!*

#### INTERCESSIONS

O God, your countless gifts fill us with astonish-  
ment and gratitude. We pray today that we may  
cherish the myriad things that you have made:

~ *Hear us, O God.*

That we may support a consistent ethic of life, opposing abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment, we pray:

That we may work for the transformation of economic systems, so that all peoples may enjoy a just share in the goods of the earth, we pray:

That we may work for the elimination of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, we pray:

That we may respect our planet as a living organism and protect it from pollution, we pray:

That we may take due care of our bodies, as a sign of our gratitude for your gift of life, we pray:

## PRAYER

O God, you love all things that exist and detest none of the things you have made. We praise and we bless you for your abundant goodness to us. Make us mindful of those who are deprived of the necessities of life, from any cause, and help us to be generous in sharing with them from our resources. We ask this with confidence in your ever-abiding love for us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 John 2:1b – 2*

If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, you invite us to bring our every need before you, so that you may share your abundant riches with us. In humility, we pray. Our fear often keeps us from loving with our whole mind, heart, and soul:

~ *You have told us that perfect love casts out fear; give us your love.*

Our ignorance often keeps us from loving:

~ *You are our teacher; give us your wisdom.*

Our prejudice often keeps us from loving:

~ *Your love is inclusive; help us to welcome the stranger.*

Our selfishness often keeps us from loving:

~ *Your selfless love brought about our salvation; give us generous hearts.*

Our hardness of heart often keeps us from loving:

~ *Your tender heart burns with love for all; give us your compassion.*

### PRAYER

O God, make us bold in asking for your gifts and grateful in accepting them. By our participation in the saving mysteries of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, may our ordinary actions, as well as our joys and sorrows, be transformed. We make this prayer through the One who is our advocate and friend. Amen.



# FRIDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Deuteronomy 30:2 – 3*

If you return to the Lord, and you and your children obey God with all your heart and with all your soul, just as I am commanding you today, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, gathering you again from all the peoples among whom you have been scattered.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Abba, our God, hallowed be your name. May this day hasten the coming of your kingdom:

~ *Your will be done on earth, as it is  
in heaven.*

You will that your name be hallowed for all time:

You will that all people be nourished by  
daily bread:

You will that all people experience forgiveness:

You will that all people be sheltered from the  
evil one:

You will that all people experience the fullness  
of love and redemption:

### PRAYER

Good and gracious God, you see our every  
weakness, you know our every need. Despite  
our countless failings, we long to obey you with  
all our hearts and to return to your embrace. Be  
with us this day, strengthen our resolve, and  
guide our coming and our going. We ask this in  
the name of Jesus, who shows us the way. Amen.

### EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Zechariah 1:3b – 4*

Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will  
return to you. Do not be like your ancestors,  
to whom the former prophets proclaimed, “Thus  
says the Lord of hosts, return from your evil

ways and from your evil deeds.” But they did not hear or heed me, says the Lord.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, our teacher, you offered us children as models of innocence and humility. Today many children suffer from the effects of sin and deprivation, and so we pray for them.

For children lacking parental love and care:

*~ May they be supported by the love of the Christian community.*

For children displaced from their homes and countries:

*~ May they find permanent homes within loving communities.*

For children suffering from crippling and terminal illnesses:

*~ May they find hope and comfort in the midst of their pain.*

For children who resort to delinquency  
and crime:

*~ May they find friends and mentors to guide them  
to goodness.*

For children scandalized by the evil around them:

*~ May they find the way to personal dignity and  
achievement.*

For children in our Mercy care, in our schools  
and other institutions:

*~ May we minister to them with love  
and integrity.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, we desire to support all persons who struggle for full dignity. We pray especially today for those who, because of their youth, are most vulnerable to society's ills. Protect and guide them, and help us to minister to them in your name. Amen.

# SATURDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Hebrews 10:35 – 36*

Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, your mother Mary is the model for us of loving fidelity to your will. Through her intercession we ask for the same grace.

Mary, you said yes to the angel's word, even though you had no knowledge of the consequences:

*~ Help us to say yes to all that God asks of us.*

Mary, in Nazareth you listened and pondered all things in your heart:

*~ Help us to enter into a rhythm of contemplation and action.*

Mary, at Cana you knew that God would listen to your prayer:

*~ Help us to do whatever God tells us.*

Mary, you stood by the cross and loved with a heart pierced with sorrow:

*~ Help us to love with hearts that know no limits.*

Mary, you were present in the upper room when the church was born of the life-giving Spirit:

*~ Help us to witness to the life of the Spirit in the church and world.*

## PRAYER

Mary our mother, help us during this Lenten season to be attentive to the will of your Son, generous in our response, and loving in our service to those in need. Mother of Mercy, pray for us. Amen.

# SUNDAY

## SECOND AND FOURTH WEEKS



### EVENING PRAYER I

#### READING

##### *2 Corinthians 6:1 – 4*

We urge you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For God says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities.

#### CANTICLE OF MARY

*See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Creator God, we are grateful for this day spent in your protection and love. Light of the universe, as the sun goes down, we come to you in prayer:

~ *We ask you to forgive the wrong we have done and to receive the good we have accomplished through your help.*

Healing God, many of your people are sick, lonely and suffering:

~ *Be with them in their need and sustain us as we minister to them.*

Merciful God, be with those who suffer from war, famine and poverty:

~ *Touch us with concern for our brothers and sisters throughout the troubled world.*

Faithful God, your church is the sign of hope to those looking for redemption:

~ *Guide us in our efforts to be faithful witnesses to your love.*

God of peace, violence afflicts your people in many parts of our world:

~ *May Catherine McAuley's call for union and charity inspire our peace-making activities.*



## PRAYER

Eternal God, you created the world out of love and a desire to share yourself with humanity. As members of your body, may we be motivated by this same love and generosity toward your people. May our words and actions show to all the world that we are in your service. We ask this through Jesus who came to show us the way. Amen.

## MORNING PRAYER



## READING

### *Leviticus 23:4 – 7*

These are the appointed festivals of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall celebrate at the time appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, there shall be a passover offering to the Lord, and on the fifteenth day of the same month is the festival of unleavened bread; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation: you shall not work at your occupations.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus, our Savior, has passed over from death to life.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God of the Exodus, as you quenched the thirst of the Israelites in the desert, quench your people's thirst for justice.

Just and merciful God, when your people strayed from the truth you brought them back:

*~ Help us to search out those who are lost and lead them back to you.*

Powerful God, when we are most weak, you are most strong:

*~ Strengthen us in word and sacrament for the task of evangelization.*

Living Water, you promised the Samaritan woman that you could slake her thirst forever:

*~ Refresh us with your life-giving Spirit.*

Giver of life, you raised the dead to life:

*~ Enliven those who are dead to love, to beauty and to their brothers and sisters.*

Sight for the blind, you gave others the power to see:

*~ Cure our blindness so we can see and appreciate our common humanity beneath all human differences.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, you call us to pass over from sin and death to new life. Be with us as we make our life's journey. Give us eyes to see the suffering around us, so that, with hearts attuned to your love, we may walk with you as healers and friends. We ask this through Jesus, the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER II



## READING

### *Zechariah 12: 10*

And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us  
— and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Gracious Savior, you gave your life that we might live. We pray today for those who sacrifice their comfort and safety for the benefit of their neighbors.

~ *Give them courage as they serve  
your people.*

For police officers and firefighters, who risk their lives in the service of others, we pray:

For search and rescue teams, paramedics and emergency personnel, who risk danger to save others, we pray:

For physicians, nurses and healthcare workers, who risk their health fighting disease, we pray:

For social advocates, community organizers, and those working for social justice, who risk imprisonment and harm for their efforts on behalf of the oppressed, we pray:

For military personnel and peacekeepers, who risk their lives in the service of justice and peace, we pray:

For catechists who risk death for their proclamation of the Good News, we pray:

## PRAYER

Faithful God, you gave Jesus to us as our companion and guide on our passover journey. Through our reflection on his life may we become strong for the tasks you place before us, creative in addressing the needs of our world, and persevering as we make our way to you. We ask this, as a community called to service.  
Amen.

MONDAY  
SECOND, FOURTH  
AND SIXTH WEEKS



MORNING PRAYER

READING

*Jeremiah 11:19 – 20*

I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.  
And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,  
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”  
But you, O Mighty God, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*The Lamb of God takes away the sins  
of the world.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus reconciles the world to himself. Let us now offer our prayers to him:

~ *Lamb of God, have mercy on us.*

That we as a Mercy community may appreciate our diversity of customs, cultures and languages, we pray:

That as we make this Lenten journey we may become more generous in sharing our resources, we pray:

That those who live with terminal illness may experience compassion and encouragement in their caregivers, we pray:

That those who are separated from one another because of anger or injury may find peace in forgiveness and reconciliation, we pray:

That we may be freed from the bondage of self-centeredness, possessiveness and pride, we pray:

## PRAYER

Jesus, Lamb of God, you came to be our reconciler. Inspired by your example, may we reach out in love to those who are wounded in spirit and alienated from themselves or their loved ones. May our compassion be a bridge leading them to peace. We ask this, trusting in your healing love. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Romans 5:8 – 9*

This proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*While we still were sinners, Christ died for us.*

### INTERCESSIONS

In this desert time of renewal, direct our hearts and steps more surely in your path:

~ *Hear us, O God.*

Guide the desires of catechumens and penitents, we pray:

Deepen the commitment of all who follow a spiritual path, we pray:

Enable us to embrace our crosses and to walk in the way of compassionate love, we pray:

Help divided groups and nations to seek the common ground, we pray:



Be present to those who are imprisoned unjustly or who wait for trial, we pray:

**PRAYER**

May the integrity of our Lenten journey, O saving God, bring new life to our community and to our world. May we walk the path of mercy and justice so that your reign will become a reality among us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, whose journey to Jerusalem shows us the way. Amen.

TUESDAY  
SECOND, FOURTH  
AND SIXTH WEEKS



MORNING PRAYER

READING

*Proverbs 31:10, 20, 25 – 26, 30 – 31*

A capable wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.  
She opens her hand to the poor,  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms  
strong.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, in the women of the Hebrew scriptures you have given us strong models for life and faith. For the grace to reverence and imitate them, we pray.

Sarah laughed at the thought of becoming a mother in her old age:

~ *Grant us appreciation for the surprises of your grace.*

Rebecca secured a blessing for her son:

~ *May we be resourceful in facing the challenges of life.*

Deborah and Judith were fearless in facing the enemies of their people:

~ *Give us courage before whatever threatens us.*

Ruth proved the value of relationship and fidelity:

~ *May we be loyal to our friends and faithful to our commitments.*

Esther endangered herself for the sake of her people:

~ *Give us a share in her integrity and devotion.*

Miriam danced before the ark:

~ *May we be joyful in your presence.*

## PRAYER

We thank you, God, for all the women in our families and community who have been strong role models for us. Through these forty days may we reflect once again on the path they have marked out for us. May our memories of them fill us with joy and sustain us as we make our journey to you. We ask this in the name of Mary whose life embraces both the old and the new covenants. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## READING

### *1 Corinthians 1:27b – 30*

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Christ Jesus became for us wisdom from  
God, and righteousness and sanctification  
and redemption.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We come to you during this Lenten season,  
O God, asking that you strengthen our resolve  
to build your kingdom. For this grace, we pray.  
Generous God, you created the world and gave  
it to us to cherish and protect:

*~ May we receive the gifts of your creation with  
gratitude and humility.*

Loving God, you chose us at our baptism to be  
your children:

*~ Receive our commitment to take up our cross daily  
and follow you.*

Healer of bodies, minds and spirits, by your  
love for us you lead us to love others:

*~ Heal our prejudice, selfishness and coldness of  
heart.*

God of the covenant, you blessed Abraham and  
Sarah and made of them a great nation:

*~ Help us to be faithful to the vows by which we  
express our covenant with you.*

God of life, you have robbed death of  
its power:

*Comfort those who mourn, and give new life to those  
who have died.*

## PRAYER

You have called us, God, to build up your kingdom. Give us the strength and ingenuity we need to help bring our world to its completion in you. May we honor all with whom we share the earth and steward wisely the creation you have entrusted to us. We ask this through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

WEDNESDAY  
SECOND, FOURTH  
AND SIXTH WEEKS



MORNING PRAYER

READING

*Isaiah 50:4b – 8a*

Morning by morning God wakens —  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be  
put to shame:  
he who vindicates me is near.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*God has opened our ears to the good news  
of salvation.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Our eyes have seen your salvation, O God.  
May our lives show forth your goodness.

True Light of the world:

*~ Illuminate the darkness which keeps us from  
seeing you.*

Giver of life:

*~ May we receive this day as a gift, and return it to  
you through our works of mercy.*

Healer of hearts:

*~ Let your word motivate us to let go of any  
resentments to which we cling.*

Transforming Fire:

*~ Purify and renew your church and its leaders as  
we strive to build your kingdom.*

Holy Christ:

*~ Through the mystery of your cross may we come to  
know you as the way, the truth and the life.*

## PRAYER

O Triune God, we know you in many ways,  
each a gift as our faith seeks understanding. May



we reflect carefully on the mysteries in which you manifest yourself to us, thus coming to know you in your infinite richness. May loving you lead us to a deeper appreciation of our communities and our world. We ask this in faith, knowing that you call us to love one another. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Ephesians 4:32 – 5:2*

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Our charity must be in our hearts and from our hearts, a charity such as Jesus Christ practiced while on earth.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Merciful God, through Catherine McAuley you called us to union and charity. For this grace we pray:

~ *Hear us, O God.*

May all who are leaders listen with love to the discernment of the community, we pray:

May all those who are considering a vocation to religious life be strengthened in their desire, we pray:

May all who suffer be sustained by the faith and compassion of the community, we pray:

May all who seek holiness make the life of Jesus the pattern of their lives, we pray:

May all who are dying find courage in the promise of the communion of saints, we pray:

## PRAYER

Hold us steady in love and confidence, O God, as we pass with Jesus through the mystery of the cross. In the unity of his body we are marked for resurrection. Through the grace of this paschal mystery may we find the courage to let ourselves be transformed. We ask this as a community called to merciful love. Amen.

# THURSDAY

## SECOND AND FOURTH WEEKS



### MORNING PRAYER

#### READING

##### *Hebrews 2:9-10*

But we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It is fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

#### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus was made perfect through suffering.*

#### INTERCESSIONS

The mercy of God was revealed in the death of Jesus on the cross. For the grace to reverence this mystery, we pray:

~ *In your mercy, bring us new life, O God.*

Where our sisters and brothers suffer at the hands of our inhumanity, we pray:

Where systems flourish to protect the powerful while neglecting the powerless, we pray:

Where we take refuge in excuses and self-interest, we pray:

Where children live on the streets, begging for subsistence, we pray:

## PRAYER

Generous God, in the death and resurrection of Jesus we have come to know the extent of your love for us. Through the grace of this revelation may we be strengthened for the service to which you call us. As we move from death to new life may we, like you, be unlimited in our love for your people. We ask this through Jesus Christ who surrendered his life for us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## READING

*Philippians 3:7 – 11*

Whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that,

I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*To those who take up their cross generously, courageously and lovingly, God has promised the hundredfold.*

### INTERCESSIONS

You invite us, O Christ, to journey with you through Lent. Through our prayer and reflection, may we uncover the deepest meaning of this holy season:

~ *May we repent and live the Good News.*

Through this Lenten time we are called to renewal:

Through this Lenten time we are invited to deepen our prayer:

Through this Lenten time we are called  
to almsgiving:

Through this Lenten time we are summoned  
to greater courage:

Through this Lenten time we are forgiven  
so that we may forgive:

### PRAYER

Animated by your gospel, O Christ, we accept the challenges of this holy season. Through its graces may we take up our daily crosses with generosity, courage and love. May we draw each day nearer to you, preparing ourselves to live as people of resurrection. We ask this in your name, Jesus Christ, our model and guide. Amen.

# FRIDAY

## SECOND AND FOURTH WEEKS



### MORNING PRAYER

#### READING

##### *Isaiah 30:19 – 21*

Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. God will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; and will answer you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

#### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*This is the way; walk in it.*

#### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you came and lived among us that we might know how to love one another as sisters

and brothers. We long to follow your path to life.

~ *Jesus, show us the way.*

That by cherishing the prophetic gifts in the church we may be open to your revelation:

That by reverencing all faith traditions we may deepen our love for you:

That by suffering with faith we may receive the gift of intimacy with you:

That by our witness of service and love, the world may know your presence:

That by our attentive fidelity we may come to know and do your will:

## PRAYER

Faithful God, Jesus has taught us the way to life. You filled him with the strength to embrace the cross that would tell all the world of your love. Come to us now and strengthen us to follow him. May your will be done in us, O God. May your will be done. Amen.



## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 Peter 2:21 – 24*

To this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. Christ by whose wounds you have been healed, bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Through the cross of Jesus all are reconciled  
to God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Redeemer God, you are our model of selfless service. That we may faithfully follow your example, we pray.

At the last supper you offered yourself  
as our bread:

*~ Help us to be eucharist for a world that hungers  
for you.*

In the garden, you were overcome with sorrow:

~ *Forgive us for the times when we have neglected the brokenhearted and the lonely.*

On the way to Calvary you fell three times:

~ *Strengthen us when we fall.*

On Golgotha you were stripped of everything:

~ *Remove the layers of selfishness that harden our hearts and distance us from the human family.*

On the cross you cried out in thirst:

~ *Pardon us for the times when we have closed our ears to the cries of the poor.*

## PRAYER

Jesus the Christ, may our life this day bring us to a deeper awareness of your presence in our sisters and brothers. As we contemplate you suffering in them may we be clothed with heartfelt mercy and moved to action on their behalf. We ask this, that your justice may reign in our world. Amen.

# SATURDAY SECOND AND FOURTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Isaiah 65:1b – 3a*

I said, “Here I am, here I am,”  
to a nation that did not call on my name.  
I held out my hands all day long  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;  
a people who provoke me to my face continually.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*In experiencing God’s mercy we learn  
to be merciful.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, this morning opens before us with  
promise and opportunity. In gratitude we pray.  
Creator God, you have shaped us as unique  
persons:

*~ Help us to accept the gentle touch of your creative  
hand.*

Compassionate Savior, your glance can heal wounds:

~ *Give us your eyes to look upon the world with love.*

Gracious Spirit, you have the power to transform hearts:

~ *Form and reform us in the fire of your love.*

Hidden God, you come to us in the flesh of our sisters and brothers:

~ *Give us hearts opened to see and welcome you.*

Faithful God, you know our every need:

~ *Help us to persevere in the commitments we have made.*

## PRAYER

Compassionate God, we give you thanks for your great mercy. Encourage us to follow your example that we may work to restore compassion to the human family. Through our words and deeds may your people know your faithful love. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

# PALM SUNDAY



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

Let all creation give praise to God.  
Praise and honor and glory!  
Reign over our hearts, O God.  
Accept our lives in service of your people.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 20

*All nations on earth shall adore you, O God of all peoples.*

God defend you in battle!  
set you safe above the fray!  
The God of Jacob send you help,  
and from holy Zion, keep you strong!

May God recall your many gifts  
and be pleased with your sacrifice,  
favoring all your hopes,  
making your plans succeed.

Then we will sing of your conquest,  
raise the flags in triumph,  
to proclaim the name of our God  
who grants all you ask.

Now I know for certain:  
the anointed of the Lord  
is given victory.  
God favors him from highest heaven  
with a strong, saving hand.

Some boast of chariots and horses,  
but we boast of God's name.  
They waver and fall,  
but we stand firm.

Lord, give victory to your king,  
answer us on the day we call.

### PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

*Every knee will bend in heaven and on earth and every  
tongue exclaim: Jesus Christ is Lord!*

Though in the form of God,  
Jesus did not claim  
equality with God  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
human like one of us.

Flesh and blood,  
he humbled himself,  
obeying to the death,  
death on a cross.  
For this very reason  
God lifted him high  
and gave him the name  
above all names.

So at the name of Jesus  
every knee will bend  
in heaven, on earth,  
and in the world below,  
and every tongue exclaim  
to the glory of God the Father,  
“Jesus Christ is Lord.”

## READING

### *Baruch 4:21 – 24*

Take courage, my children, cry to God,  
who will deliver you from the power and hand  
of the enemy.  
For I have put my hope in the Everlasting  
to save you,  
and joy has come to me from the Holy One,  
because of the mercy that will soon come to you  
from the Everlasting, your savior.  
For I sent you out with sorrow and weeping,

but God will give you back to me with joy and gladness forever.  
For as the neighbors of Zion have now seen your capture,  
so they soon will see your salvation by God, which will come to you with great glory and with the splendor of the Everlasting.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*With songs and hymns let us run to greet our God who comes.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, the children of Israel sang praise and welcomed your Son Jesus. They spread before him palms and cloaks and rejoiced at his coming. Let us too welcome him with the mantle of goodness and a song of thanksgiving. At his coming may Christ find us ready to welcome him:

*~ Christ, let our deeds of mercy and justice show our love.*

When you come to us in the poor:

When you come to us in the sick and infirm:

When you come to us in those who have no one to speak for them:

When you come to us in those oppressed by bigotry and hate:



When you come to us in the lonely and forgotten:

When you come to us in the hopeless and despairing:

When you come to us in victims of violence and war:

When you come to us in the dying:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Gracious God, you have heard the cries of your suffering people. You have sent Jesus to us to be our Redeemer and brother. Open our eyes to see the immensity of your love for us and the wonder of what you have done for us. Give us the courage to be your hands and heart for those who are in pain. Give us the wisdom to speak out for justice and righteousness. May your will be done in us today and always. Amen.

### BLESSING

Hosanna to our Redeemer who comes. *Amen.*

Hosanna to our Redeemer who saves. *Amen.*

Hosanna to our Redeemer who reigns. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

Glory to the Holy One of Israel!  
Glory and honor and praise to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of  
the Lord!  
Hosanna, hosanna to our God!

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 24

*As Jesus rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on  
the road.*

God owns this planet  
and all its riches.  
The earth and every creature  
belong to God.

God set the land on top of the seas  
and anchored it in the deep.

Who is fit to climb God's mountain  
and stand in his holy place?

Whoever has integrity:  
not chasing shadows,  
not living lies.

God will bless them,  
their savior will bring justice.  
These people long to see the Lord,  
they seek the face of Jacob's God.

Stretch toward heaven, you gates,  
open high and wide.  
Let the glorious sovereign enter.

Who is this splendid ruler?  
The Lord of power and might,  
the conqueror of chaos.

Stretch toward heaven, you gates,  
open high and wide.  
Let the glorious sovereign enter.

Who is this splendid ruler?  
The Lord of heaven's might,  
this splendid ruler is God.

### DANIEL 3:56–88

*The whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power they had seen.*

Bless God beyond the stars.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, heaven and earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, angels of God.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, highest heavens.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, waters above.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, spirits of God.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, sun and moon.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, stars of heaven.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, rainstorm and dew.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, gales and winds.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, fire and heat.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, frost and cold.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, dew and snow.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, ice and cold.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, frost and sleet.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, night and day.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, light and darkness.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, lightning and clouds.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, earth and sea.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, mountains and hills.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, trees and plants.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, fountains and springs.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, rivers and seas.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, fishes and whales.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, birds of the air.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, beasts of the earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, children of earth.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, Israel.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, priests of God.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, servants of God.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, just and faithful souls.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, holy and humble hearts.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God beyond the stars.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, heaven and earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

## READING

### *Zechariah 9:9*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Lift up your voice in joyful praise. Sing out your gladness for our God comes to save.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Faithful God, you promised to bring healing and salvation to your people. You sent Christ Jesus to show us the fullness of your love for us. Hear us now for we rely on your promise to be our God:

*~ In your mercy, rescue your people, O God.*

For all those held captive by the chains of oppression, we pray:

For all those who go hungry while others feast in plenty, we pray:

For all those who suffer the pain of discrimination, false judgment, and slander, we pray:

For all those who have never known loving parenting or healing friendship, we pray:

For all those who wander homeless and outcast, we pray:

For all those who struggle to support families in the midst of economic injustice, we pray:

For all those who have been injured or killed through violence, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Loving God, we bow before the simplicity and holiness of Jesus. Let us never consider the praise or acclaim of others to be a measure of our faithfulness in serving you. Make our hearts like that of Jesus who came as a servant among us. Through the mystery of his cross and resurrection may we be sharers in his mission. Amen.

### BLESSING

Hosanna to our Redeemer who comes. *Amen.*

Hosanna to our Redeemer who saves. *Amen.*

Hosanna to our Redeemer who reigns. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

Let all creation give praise to God.  
Praise and honor and glory!  
Reign over our hearts, O God.  
Accept our lives in service of your people.

### DOXOLOGY



## PSALM 28

*Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might.*

I call out, Lord my rock.  
Do not be deaf,  
do not keep silent.  
Without you I must die.

Hear my cry for mercy,  
my call for help;  
I stretch out my hands  
toward your holy temple.

Do not drag me off like the wicked  
who speak peace to friends  
but have malice in their hearts.

Pay them in their own coin.  
What they do is evil;  
give them what they deserve.

The ways of the Lord  
mean nothing to them.  
May God destroy their world  
and never rebuild it!

Blessed be the Lord  
who hears my cry.  
God is the strong shield  
in whom my heart trusts.

— —

When help comes to me,  
joy fills my heart  
and I thank God in song.  
Strength comes from the Lord,  
salvation for his anointed.

Save your chosen people.  
Bless and shepherd them  
and keep them for ever.

### HOSEA 6:1-6

*For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the  
knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

Let us return to the Lord  
who tore us apart  
but now will heal us;  
who struck us down  
yet binds our wounds;  
who revives us after two days,  
raising us up on the third,  
to live in God's presence.

Let us seek to know the Lord,  
whose coming is sure as dawn,  
who descends like the rain,  
spring rain renewing the earth.

What can I do with you, Ephraim?  
What can I do with you, Judah?  
Your love is but a morning mist,  
a dew that vanishes early.

So I cut them down by my prophets,  
slew them with my words;  
my judgment blazes like the sun.  
For I take delight  
not in sacrifices,  
but in loyal love;  
not in holocausts,  
but in the knowledge of God.

## READING

### *Acts 13:26 – 29*

My brothers and sisters, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize him or understand the words of the prophets that are read every sabbath, they fulfilled those words by condemning him. Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him killed. When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*The message of salvation has been sent to us by God through Jesus.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Faithful and loving God, Jesus willingly gave his life that we might live. As he accepted the risks and consequences of loving us, let us accept the cost of discipleship.

That all Christians may find in the example of your human life the courage to devote themselves fully to the purposes of God:

~ *Hear us, O Christ.*

That the church may always and faithfully put on your mind and follow you in humility and self-emptying love:

That men and women who do not know God or who fear God may experience through your gospel the approachable simplicity of God:

That all Sisters of Mercy, their associates and co-workers may draw inspiration and ardor from your wholehearted dedication to the reign of God, even unto death:

That we who gather here in prayer may so live our lives and so follow in your footsteps that our deaths too will be the fruit of our mission:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER


Shepherd of Israel, you loved all your flock.  
Teach us to have a love for all peoples, especially  
for those who are most in need of our help. Let  
us never fear the consequences of discipleship.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

Hosanna to our Redeemer who comes. *Amen.*  
Hosanna to our Redeemer who saves. *Amen.*  
Hosanna to our Redeemer who reigns. *Amen.*

# EASTER TRIDUUM

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Let us pray well  
and never grow weary

M. & McAuley

# HOLY THURSDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING

O God, as you fed the people of Israel  
manna  
in the desert,  
feed us now the bread that satisfies.  
O God of life and hope,  
give us living bread.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 116:12–19

*What gift can ever repay God's gift to us?*

What gift can ever repay  
God's gift to me?  
I raise the cup of freedom  
as I call on God's name!  
I fulfill my vows to you, Lord,  
standing before your assembly.



Lord, you hate to see  
your faithful ones die.  
I beg you, Lord, hear me:  
it is I, the servant you love,  
I, the child of your servant.  
You freed me from death's grip.

I bring a gift of thanks,  
as I call on your name.  
I fulfill my vows to you, Lord,  
standing before your assembly,  
in the courts of your house,  
within the heart of Jerusalem.

**WISDOM 16:20-21, 26; 17:1a**

*Eating this bread, they tasted your sweetness, the perfect meal for their deepest hunger.*

You hand-fed your people  
with food for angels,  
heaven's bread:  
ready to eat,  
richly satisfying,  
pleasing to every taste.

Eating this bread,  
they tasted your sweetness,  
the perfect meal  
for their deepest hunger and hope.

The children you love  
will learn this, Lord:  
it is our word,  
not the bounty of fruits,  
that feeds and preserves  
your faithful ones.

Great are your judgments,  
beyond calculation!

## READING

### *1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26*

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you  
proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Christ Jesus, we bow before the holy mysteries of this day: your love of us, your patience, your humble service, your obedience to your mission. Fill us with gratitude for your life and death, as we pray on behalf of all your people:

~ *Christ Jesus, we thank you.*

On this day, you took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me”:

On this day, you took the cup also, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me”:

On this day, you washed the feet of your disciples, saying, “I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you” for “servants are not greater than their master”:

On this day, you were “troubled in spirit,” yet you prayed, “not my will but yours be done”:

On this day, you acknowledged to the soldiers and police, “I am he,” and they arrested and bound you:

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Faithful God, Jesus gave us the gift of his own Body and Blood that we might have food to

sustain us. As we share the Eucharist of Jesus Christ, let us become eucharist for one another. May our lives be blessed, broken and given that your people may live. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our living Bread. Amen.

### BLESSING

O God, sustain us with your Bread. *Amen.*

O God, strengthen us with your Bread. *Amen.*

O God, send us forth to be bread for your people. *Amen.*

*Evening Prayer is omitted by those who participate in the evening celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper.*

# GOOD FRIDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
By your holy cross you have redeemed the  
world.  
You were lifted high upon the tree.  
Let us gaze upon our God who saves.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 22:1-22

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me —  
far from my cry, my words of pain?  
I call by day, you do not answer;  
I call by night, but find no rest.

You are the Holy One enthroned,  
the Praise of Israel.  
Our people trusted, they trusted you;  
you rescued them. — —  
To you they cried, and they were saved;

they trusted and were not shamed.

But I am a worm, hardly hūman,  
despised by all, mocked by the crowd.

All who see me jeer at mē,  
sneer at me, shaking their heads: “  
“You relied on God; let Gōd help you!  
If God loves you, let God save you!”

But you, God, took me from the womb,  
you kept me safe at my mother’s breast.  
I belonged to you from the time of birth,  
you are my God from my mother’s womb.

Do not stay far off,  
danger is so close.  
I have no other help.  
Wild bulls surround me,  
bulls of Bashan encircle me,  
opening their jaws against me  
like roaring, ravening lions.

I am poured out like water,  
my bones are pulled apart,  
my heat is wax melting within me,  
my throat baked and dry,  
my tongue stuck to my jaws.  
You bring me down to the dust of death.

There are dogs all around me,  
a pack of villains corners me.  
They tear at my hands and feet,  
I can count all my bones.  
They stare at me and gloat.  
They take what I wore,  
they roll dice for my clothes.

Lord, do not stay far off,  
you, my strength, be quick to help.  
Save my neck from the sword,  
save my life from the dog's teeth,  
  
save me from the lion's jaws,  
save me from the bull's horns.

You hear me.

#### 1 PETER 2:21-24

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that,  
free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his  
wounds you have been healed.*

Christ suffered for us  
leaving us an example,  
that we might walk  
in his footsteps.

He did nothing wrong;  
no false word  
ever passed his lips.

When they cursed him  
he returned no curse.  
Tortured, he made no threats  
but trusted in the perfect judge.

He carried our sins  
in his body  
to the cross,  
that we might die to sin  
and live for justice.  
When he was wounded,  
we were healed.

## READING

### *Isaiah 52:13 – 15*

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him — so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals — so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.



## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

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

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you accepted crucifixion, and by your bruises we are healed. May we follow your example of obedience to God's will.

Crucified Christ, your forgiveness has no limits:

*~ Immerse us in your mercy so we may forgive as you have forgiven.*

Crucified Christ, you stood without shame before those who ridiculed and insulted you:

*~ Transform bigotry, cynicism and hatred into understanding, compassion and love.*

Crucified Christ, you knew when to be silent and when to speak:

*~ Give us courage and wisdom to know when to be still and when to respond in truth.*

Crucified Christ, you suffered anguish and yet remained faithful and obedient:

*~ Give us hearts true to your call and mission, as we struggle to live in fidelity to your word.*

Crucified Christ, you commended your spirit  
into the hands of your Father:

~ *Teach all men and women such trust and  
confidence in the goodness of God.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Christ Jesus, your love is made visible through  
the mystery of your death and resurrection.  
Make us one in you. Transform us into people  
of mercy who reach out to embrace you in the  
suffering ones in our midst. We ask this, as a  
people reconciled to God through the blood of  
your cross. Amen.

### BLESSING

By your wounds we are healed. *Amen.*

By your passion we are freed from sin. *Amen.*

By your death and rising we are born to eternal  
life. *Amen.*

*Evening Prayer is omitted by those who participate in the  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion.*

# HOLY SATURDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
By your holy cross you have redeemed the  
world.  
Let all the earth grow still.  
Creation's Lord lies silent in the tomb.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 119:33–50

*The women who had come with him from Galilee  
followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was  
laid. Then they returned,  
and prepared spices and ointments.*

God, teach me your ways  
and I will follow them closely.  
Help me understand your will,  
that I may cherish your law.

Guide me along your path,  
a way of delight.  
Open my heart to your laws

and not to riches.

Turn my eyes from the lure of evil,  
let me live your truth.  
Keep your promise  
to one who reveres you.

Spare me the shame I fear.  
How good your commands!  
See, I want what is right,  
let your justice give me life.

Touch me with your love, O Lord;  
save me as you promised.  
I defy those who taunt me,  
for I trust your word.

Let me speak the whole truth,  
for I await your justice.  
I keep your word,  
now and always.

I go about openly  
pursuing your law.  
I would speak your word to kings,  
and not be ashamed.

For I love your ways  
and delight in following them.  
I revere your commands  
and attend to them.

Remember what you promised me,  
I wait in hope.  
In sorrow, this is my comfort:  
your life-giving word.

**JEREMIAH 14:17-21**

*Let the same mind be in you that was  
in Christ Jesus.*

Day and night  
my tears never stop,  
for my people are struck,  
my daughter crushed  
by a savage blow.

I see the dead slain in the fields  
and people starving on city streets.  
Priest and prophet wander about,  
not knowing where to turn.

Lord, have you nothing  
but contempt for Zion?  
Have you completely rejected Judah?  
Why have you inflicted wounds  
that do not heal?

We long for peace,  
we long for healing,  
but there is only terror.  
We have sinned against you  
and we know it, God;  
we share our people's guilt.

For the sake of your name,  
do not abandon us.  
For the honor of your throne,  
remember your covenant,  
do not break your oath.

## READING

### *Hosea 5:15b – 6:3*

In their distress they will beg my favor: “Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is God who has torn, and God will heal us; God has struck down, and God will bind us up. After two days the Lord will revive us and will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; our God will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Christ humbled himself and became obedient  
to the point of death — even death on a cross.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O God, Jesus offered you the praise of his obedience. In waiting silence, stir our hearts to offer you our sacrifice of praise.

~ *Teach us to wait in hope, O God.*

When we are fearful of the future:

When all seems clouded by uncertainty:

When we cannot see the way to you:

When words of prayer do not rise from our hearts:

When the powers of evil seem to overcome the good:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Saving God, all creation waits with groaning and longing for the salvation promised to our ancestors and revealed in the resurrection of your Son Jesus. Teach us how to wait for the bursting forth of your saving power when all will be reconciled to you in Christ Jesus. We wait in hope, O God. We wait in the company of all the angels and saints of heaven. Through their intercession may we have the power to say: Holy, Holy, Holy is our God. Amen.

## BLESSING

Blessed be our God who saves. *Amen.*

Blessed be our God who raises up. *Amen.*

Blessed be our God who lives. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER



## GREETING

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Let all the earth grow still.

Creation's Lord lies silent in the tomb.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 136:1 – 26

*God's steadfast love endures forever.*

Our God is good, give thanks!

God's love is for ever!

Our God of gods, give thanks!

God's love is for ever!

Our Lord of lords, give thanks!

God's love is for ever!



Alone the maker of worlds!  
God's love is for ever!  
Architect for the skies!  
God's love is for ever!  
Spread land on the sea!  
God's love is for ever!

Set the great lights above!  
God's love is for ever!  
The sun to rule the day!  
God's love is for ever!  
The moon and stars, the night!  
God's love is for ever!

Struck down Egypt's firstborn!  
God's love is for ever!  
Guided Israel's escape!  
God's love is for ever!  
Held out a mighty arm!  
God's love is for ever!

Split in two the Red Sea!  
God's love is for ever!  
Led Israel across!  
God's love is for ever!  
Drowned Pharaoh and his troops!  
God's love is for ever!

Led the desert trek!  
God's love is for ever!  
Struck down mighty tribes!  
God's love is for ever!  
Killed powerful kings!  
God's love is for ever!

Sihon, the Amorite king!  
God's love is for ever!  
And Og, Bashan's king!  
God's love is for ever!  
Gave Israel a land!  
God's love is for ever!  
For Israel to keep!  
God's love is for ever!

Remembered our distress!  
God's love is for ever!  
Kept us from defeat!  
God's love is for ever!  
God feeds all living things!  
God's love is for ever!  
God in heaven, be thanked!  
God's love is for ever!

REVELATION 4:11; 5:9–10, 12

*Worthy are you, O Christ. Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered!*

Worthy are you, Lord God,  
to receive glory, honor and power,  
for you are creator and source of all.

Worthy are you, O Christ,  
to take the scroll and break the seals,  
for you were slain,  
and your blood purchased for God  
every tribe, language, people and nation.

You made them royal priests  
to serve our God,  
and they will rule on earth.

Worthy is the slaughtered Lamb,  
worthy of power and wealth,  
wisdom and strength,  
honor and glory and praise.

READING

*Revelation 22:1–5*

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river, is the tree of life with its twelve kinds

of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

#### CANTICLE OF MARY

*They need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light.*

#### INTERCESSIONS

God of light and healing, we come seeking wholeness. Jesus, the Light of the World, rests in the tomb. We wait for the coming of the Rising Sun to show us the way. Hear our prayer for his coming:

~ *May the light of Christ show the way.*

For our catechumens preparing for baptism:

For godparents and sponsors who support the newly baptized on their journey of faith:

For the peoples of the Holy Land who long for peace:

For ethnic groups divided by longstanding prejudices and hatred:

For the teaching church as it speaks a word of hope to the people of the world:

For those alienated from the church community:

For the terminally ill, awaiting their passage to new life:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

O God, on this holy night we await the passover of Jesus. Fulfill your promise to give life to your people. Fill us with eagerness for the ways of justice and truth. May the sufferings we endure and the crosses we embrace be occasions of growth and transformation. May we put on the mind of Christ Jesus who loved us unto death. Amen.

### BLESSING


Blessed be our God who saves. *Amen.*

Blessed be our God who raises up. *Amen.*

Blessed be our God who lives. *Amen.*

# SEASON OF EASTER

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Pray for your portion of the Easter grace...  
do not give up until all is given you.

M. & M. Auley

# EASTER SUNDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING

O radiant dawn, shine forth in glory!  
Christ has burst forth from the tomb.  
Give praise, O peoples of the earth.  
Death is overcome, God triumphs. Alleluia!

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 150

*Let all the earth rejoice. Christ is risen. Alleluia!*

Praise! Praise God in the temple,  
in the highest heavens!  
Praise! Praise God's mighty deeds  
and noble majesty.

Praise! Praise God with trumpet blasts,  
with lute and harp.  
Praise! Praise God with timbrel and dance,  
with strings and pipes.



Praise! Praise God with crashing cymbals,  
with ringing cymbals.  
All that is alive, praise. Praise the Lord.  
Hallelujah!

REVELATION 19:1 – 7

*Alleluia! We have been born anew. In Christ we have  
been redeemed. Alleluia!*

Alleluia!  
Salvation, glory and power to God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Right and sure, the judgments of God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia!  
Praise our God, you faithful servants!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
In awe praise God, you small and great!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia!  
The Lord God almighty rules!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Be glad, rejoice, give glory to God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia!  
The wedding feast of the Lamb begins.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
The bride is radiant, clothed in glory.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

## READING

### *Acts 10:40 – 43*

God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*At the dawning of this day, the earth sings. Alleluia!  
Christ is risen! Death shall be no more!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Christ, firstborn from the dead, you triumphed over sin and set all humankind free. Risen Savior, free us to live in newness of life as daughters of God.

Risen Savior, you came to Mary Magdalene in the quiet of the garden and revealed your presence to her:

~ *Speak to our hearts, and let us know that you are with us.*

Risen Savior, you walked with the disciples on the way to Emmaus and set their hearts on fire:

~ *Let our hearts burn with the desire to share the Good News.*

Risen Savior, you burst through the bonds of death to show us the power of God:

~ *Give us the strength to break through attitudes that keep us from serving others.*

Risen Savior, you have a special care for the poor and the suffering:

~ *Use us as instruments of your mercy for the poor and suffering of our time.*

Risen Savior, you rise to banish alienation and bring all peoples into unity:

~ *Bring unity among all Christian churches that they may be of one heart and one mind in you.*

Risen Savior, by your rising you vanquish death  
and wipe away all tears:

~ *Accompany our sisters and brothers who are dying  
and bring them into your eternal light.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, we stand in awe at the mystery of your death and resurrection. We wonder at the depths of your love for us. May all peoples of the earth receive the good news of your gospel. As your people we ask this day for the power to live in the joy of your rising. May we sing with all creation: Hail, O Light of Christ! Welcome, Risen Lord. Amen.

### BLESSING

Bless our God who saves. *Alleluia!*

Bless our Savior who is risen from the dead.  
*Alleluia!*

Bless the Spirit who gives us the power to cry  
out: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed be our God!*

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING

O radiant dawn, shine forth in glory!  
Christ has burst forth from the tomb.  
Give praise, O peoples of the earth.  
Death is overcome, God triumphs. Alleluia!

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 148

*Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

Praise the Lord!  
Across the heavens,  
from the heights,  
all you angels, heavenly beings,  
sing praise, sing praise!

Sun and moon, glittering stars,  
sing praise, sing praise.  
Highest heavens, rain clouds,  
sing praise, sing praise.

Praise God's name,  
whose word called you forth  
and fixed you in place for ever  
by eternal decree.

Let there be praise:  
from depths of the earth,  
from creatures of the deep.

Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
storms, winds,  
mountains, hills,  
fruit trees and cedars,  
wild beasts and tame,  
snakes and birds,

princes, judges,  
rulers, subjects,  
men, women,  
old and young,  
praise, praise the holy name,  
this name beyond all names.

God's splendor above the earth,  
above the heavens,  
gives strength to the nation,  
glory to the faithful,  
a people close to the Lord.  
Israel, let there be praise!

### 1 TIMOTHY 3:16

*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

Astounding mystery  
at the heart of our faith:

One who appeared in human flesh, alleluia!  
was attested by the Spirit, alleluia!  
seen by angels, alleluia!  
proclaimed to Gentiles, alleluia!  
believed in by the world, alleluia!  
taken up in glory, alleluia!

## READING

### *Hebrews 10:12 – 14*

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Rejoice! Dance with joy before your God. Christ is risen!  
The earth sings, Alleluia!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Mary Magdalene was filled with wonder at your living presence. Let us honor with grateful spirits the wonder of your risen life.

Risen Christ, you healed Mary of brokenness, fear and uncertainty:

~ *Heal us and all who are broken.*

Holy One, you blessed Mary with the gift of inner quiet and peace:

~ *Fill us with peace in your presence.*

Comforting Friend, you turned Mary's tears and sadness into understanding and confidence:

~ *Grant us confident understanding of your continuing mission in this world.*

Giver of hope, you offered Mary a sure and faithful love:

~ *Make our love steadfast and enduring.*

God of all peoples and nations, you sent us Jesus to bring all into unity:

~ *Send us forth, like Mary, to tell the good news of your gospel.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Risen Savior, we rejoice in your rising. All creation is redeemed through your saving love. Mary sought you and found you in the midst of her sorrow. Your presence filled her with a joy that had to be shared. You sent her to announce the news of your resurrection from the dead. Give us a love that sees you risen among us and sends us forth as bearers of the Good News. We ask this in faith. Amen.



## BLESSING

Bless our God who saves. *Alleluia!*

Bless our Savior who is risen from the dead.  
*Alleluia!*

Bless the Spirit who gives us the power to cry  
out: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed be our God!*

# MONDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

*For the first week, use the psalms and canticles for Easter Sunday. In subsequent weeks, use the psalms from the current week of the Psalter. Supplemental psalms and canticles that are appropriate for Easter may also be chosen.*

### READING

#### ***Romans 10:8b – 10***

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Go quickly and tell his disciples: Jesus has been raised from the dead, alleluia.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Triune God, we celebrate this Easter season with songs of praise and thanksgiving:

~ *Jesus is Lord, alleluia!*

We praise and thank you for the gift of baptism by which we share your life, and we proclaim:

We praise and thank you for the gift of the eucharist by which we are daily nourished, and we proclaim:

We praise and thank you for the gift of forgiveness by which we are renewed and made whole, and we proclaim:

We praise and thank you for our call to this Mercy Institute, and we proclaim:

We praise and thank you for the call to spread your gospel, and we proclaim:

## PRAYER

Triune God, your constant love sustains, redeems, and inspires us. Strengthen our faith in you, that we may one day rejoice with you in everlasting happiness. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus the Christ, who has risen and gone before us in the way of salvation. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

*Hebrews 8:1b – 3a; 9:14*

We have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices. How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Beloved Christ, in this season of your resurrection and our renewal, we thank you for your mercies, and we pray to you:

~ *Risen Christ, hear us.*

That new hope may rise from human discouragement:

That new faith may rise from human doubt:  
That new love may rise from human indifference:  
That new courage may rise from human timidity:  
That new joy may rise from human sorrows:

### PRAYER

Christ, our triumphant brother and risen Lord, we experience winters of the heart that chill our passion for service and slow our work for justice. Arouse new life in us during this Easter season. May we, with resurrected spirits, continue the work of mercy among the needy of our time. Amen.

# TUESDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Acts 13:30 – 33*

God raised Jesus from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Share the Good News! What God promised to our ancestors has been fulfilled. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

With profound wonder let us proclaim the gifts of the resurrection.

Jesus, by your rising you offered us new life:

~ *May we live this new life with joy and confidence.*

Jesus, by your rising you became the promise of our own future resurrection:

~ *May we proclaim this promise to all people everywhere.*

Jesus, by your rising you opened for us the meaning of the scriptures:

~ *May we come to know your will through our study of the sacred texts.*

Jesus, by your rising you brought us the gift of peace:

~ *May we share that gift with those who are troubled or estranged from one another.*

Jesus, by your rising you taught us a new song:

~ *May our 'alleluias' ring out in every age and place.*

## PRAYER

Risen Savior, may the miracle of your resurrection be a sign of your faithful love for us and a pledge of our future life with you. We make our prayer with hearts full of gratitude and praise for the Good News you daily share with us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 Peter 2:4 – 5*

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*This is eternal life, that we may know you,  
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, you bid us come to you as your holy people. In confidence, then, we pray for those whom you have called into membership in your church:

~ *Guide and strengthen them on their way.*

For the pope, and all bishops, priests, deacons and seminarians, we pray:

For women and men religious and those discerning a religious vocation, we pray:

For lay ministers and all women and men who seek to know and serve you, we pray:



For those newly baptized or received into the church at Easter, we pray:

For those who seek you in darkness, not yet certain of your call, we pray:

### PRAYER

O God, may the spiritual sacrifices of your people be acceptable to you. By their prayers and good works may they build up your church on earth and prepare for the coming reign of your mercy. We make this prayer in union with Jesus, who is chosen and precious in your sight. Amen.

# WEDNESDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Romans 6:8 – 11*

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ, you rose from the grave to show us the way to lasting freedom. We pray for all those who seek relief from oppression or confinement:

*~ Risen Christ, hear our prayer.*

That those serving prison terms may be sustained by your merciful love:

That those trapped in ghettos of poverty and violence may find help and healing:

That those held in refugee camps may find permanent homes:

That those confined in nursing homes and hospitals may be comforted by their faith:

That those restricted by prejudice or misunderstanding may find encouragement to pursue their goals:

## PRAYER

Good and gracious God, you call us to works of mercy and justice that will liberate others. Bless us for the tasks that lie before us this day, that through our efforts others may come to know your love for them. May the graces of this Easter time sustain and refresh us. We make this prayer through the intercession of your risen Son, Jesus. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Hebrews 7:24 – 26*

Jesus, our high priest, holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*When it was evening on that day, Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you brought the gift of peace to your followers on the evening of your resurrection. Help us to receive and treasure this same gift in the many circumstances of our lives.

When we are tempted to harsh words or hostile deeds:

~ *Give us your peace, O Christ.*

When we are tempted to quarrel with community members or co-workers:

~ *Give us your peace, O Christ.*

When parties in the church give way to mutual distrust and factionalism:

~ *Teach us the ways of peace, O Christ.*

When ethnic and religious groups injure one another:

~ *Teach us the ways of peace, O Christ.*

When nations wage war against one another:

~ *Teach us the ways of peace, O Christ.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, our high priest, intercede for us, that we may become holy and blameless before you. Forgive us our offenses against our neighbors, and help us to learn the skills of peacemaking. This we ask with confidence in your ever-abiding presence among us. Amen.

# THURSDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Romans 8:10 – 11*

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”  
Alleluia!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, trusting in your power to call life out of death and darkness, we approach this new day with confidence, and we pray:

~ *Risen Christ, hear us.*

That all who await relief from misery may be sustained by the promise of resurrection:

That all who struggle for full dignity in church and society may be encouraged and supported:

That all who administer aid programs may be stirred with compassion for the needs of the poor and vulnerable:

That all who lead nations may be mindful of the voices of those who suffer at the margins of society:

That all who work for peace and justice may be strengthened in their quest:

## PRAYER

Risen Christ, the law and the prophets find their fulfillment in your life, death, and resurrection. We rejoice in this manifestation of your constant love for us, renewed in the celebration of Easter. May the observance of this holy season keep ever before us the memory of what you have done for us. We ask this with confidence in your risen presence among us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

*1 Peter 3:18, 22*

For Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. He has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*They urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."  
Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

As this day draws to a close, we recall the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and we pray:

~ *Stay with us, Lord Jesus!*

In our times of physical need and spiritual trial, when we are tempted to fear and doubt:

In our quest for a more just social order, when we are tempted to discouragement:

In our encounters with the poor and needy of our time, when we are tempted to grow weary:



In our dialogue with persons of other faith traditions, when we are tempted to misunderstanding:

In our ministries of mercy, when we are tempted to self-satisfaction:

## PRAYER

Gracious Lord, Catherine McAuley admonishes us, “we can never say it is enough,” when we are about your work. Guide and strengthen us in our journey of mercy, that we may ever strive to walk more closely with you and to serve you more generously. This we ask with confidence in your unceasing regard for us. Amen.

# FRIDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

*Acts 5:30 – 32*

The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Risen Savior, your apostles and disciples were passionate in their proclamation of what they had seen and heard. May we witness to you with the same spirit:

~ *We bless and proclaim your holy name!*

In thanksgiving for priests, religious, and catechists who preach the Good News:

In thanksgiving for the martyrs of our century who gave their lives in testimony to your mission:

In thanksgiving for parents and foster parents who nurture their children in the Christian faith:

In thanksgiving for missionaries who forsake their native lands for the sake of the gospel:

In thanksgiving for theologians who lead us more deeply into the mystery of your word:

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, fill our hearts with zeal for preaching the good news and strengthen us for our mission of mercy. May we show by our words and deeds that you are ever with us, sustaining and guiding us throughout this day. We make our prayer in union with Jesus our Savior. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Hebrews 5:7 – 10*

In 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. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Having loved his own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, Mary's son, Jesus, rose from the dead as the first fruits of those who sleep. In our joy let us pray:

~ *Risen Christ, we thank you.*

For the gifts of this day and for sustaining us throughout it:

For the church and for our Institute of Mercy,  
through which we have been called to serve:

For the companions with whom we share faith  
and mission:

For the witness of women who announce the  
gospel in word and deed:

For the beauty and hospitality of this planet  
Earth:

For the rich diversity of peoples and cultures:

## PRAYER

Holy Source of all lives and of all alleluias, we  
go to rest knowing that our world is in your  
loving hands. Let us rise renewed and strength-  
ened to live out Catherine McAuley's legacy  
of mercy. This we ask with confident hope in  
your promises. Amen.

# SATURDAY FIRST, THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

*Romans 14:7–9*

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, your Son Jesus burst forth from the tomb in order to show us that death has no final power over us. We are destined to be united with you for all eternity. We pray today to be worthy of that great calling:

~ *Support us with your help, we pray.*

In our efforts to be women of the gospel,  
sharing our faith with others:

In our efforts to minister to the poor, sick,  
and uneducated:

In our efforts to change unjust social systems:

In our efforts to live in harmony and inter-  
dependence with creation:

In our efforts to create communities of love  
and service:

## PRAYER

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ died and rose again and now lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. May our lives be lived in and for you, mirroring the endless gift of your trinitarian love. We make this prayer with confidence in your creating, redeeming, and life-giving love. Amen.

SUNDAY  
SECOND, FOURTH  
AND SIXTH WEEKS



EVENING PRAYER I

READING

*1 Peter 2:9 – 10*

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

CANTICLE OF MARY

*From God's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Alleluia!*

INTERCESSIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, you have made us a royal priesthood and a holy people. We give thanks for your great generosity, and we ask to be



faithful to the vocation to which you have called us:

~ *We praise and thank you for your great mercy.*

From your goodness we have received the gift of life and our individual talents:

From your goodness we have received the gift of baptism and membership in your church:

From your goodness we have received the gifts of earth, sea and sky and all they contain:

From your goodness we have received the gift of a call to Mercy:

From your goodness we have received the gifts of family, friends and companions in community:

From your goodness we have received the gift of forgiveness:

## PRAYER

Merciful Jesus, your bountiful gifts make us holy and draw us into union with you. As a priestly people, we are called to bear witness to your marvelous deeds and to minister in your name. Help us to heed your call and to respond in faith and generosity. This we ask in the name of the Creator and Spirit who, with you, sustain and bless us each day. Amen.

## MORNING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Colossians 3:1 – 4*

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Mary Magdalene announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord." Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Mary Magdalene was greeted by the Risen Christ at the tomb. Let us remember with grateful spirits the wonder of that personal encounter:

~ *Risen Christ, live in us and in all people.*

Holy One of God, you give us Mary Magdalene as an example of conversion of life:

Holy One of God, you healed Mary of fear and uncertainty by speaking her name:

Holy One of God, you turned Mary's confusion and tears into understanding and joy:

Holy One of God, you commissioned Mary to be the herald of your resurrection:

Holy One of God, you invite us daily to the intimacy of discipleship:

## PRAYER

Risen Savior, may we, like Mary Magdalene, learn to set our minds on things that are above, while also recognizing you in the persons and events of our daily lives. You are our hope and our sure reward; help us to proclaim this truth in our words and deeds. We make this prayer with confidence in your constant presence among us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER II



## READING

### *Galatians 3:27 – 28*

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Jesus said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself." Alleluia!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Christ, our redeemer, by your death and resurrection you have bestowed on us a new identity. Help us to be worthy of the name you have given us:

*~ For this we pray, O saving Christ.*

As Christians, may we be clothed with faith, to believe despite the temptation to fear and doubt:

As Christians, may we be clothed with courage, to confront the suffering and injustice in our world with gospel zeal:

As Christians, may we be clothed with wisdom, to recognize your will in the signs of our times:

As Christians, may we be clothed with skills for peace-making, to heal divisions among your people:

As Christians, may we be clothed with generosity, to spend ourselves on behalf of your mission on earth:

## PRAYER

Christ Jesus, by your life, death and resurrection you reconciled the divisions among your people. Through our baptism we share a common spiritual identity, despite differing ethnic and racial backgrounds, economic and social classes, and genders. We are all one in you. Help us to celebrate our common identity, acknowledging that this gift comes from you, in union with the Creator and the Spirit. Amen.

MONDAY  
SECOND, FOURTH  
AND SIXTH WEEKS



MORNING PRAYER

READING

*Colossians 2:9 – 10, 12*

In Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells  
bodily, and you have come to fullness in him,  
who is the head of every ruler and authority.  
When you were buried with him in baptism, you  
were also raised with him through faith in the  
power of God, who raised him from the dead.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the  
Holy Spirit.” Alleluia!*

INTERCESSIONS

O God, you give the gift of your Spirit to all  
who ask. We pray especially today for those  
who exercise authority in the church and world.

For the pope and all bishops and clergy:

~ *May their ministry assist the church  
to come to the fullness of life in you.*

For leaders of religious congregations and  
of conferences of religious:

~ *May their efforts strengthen the witness  
of religious life in the church.*

For delegates and officials of the United Nations:

~ *May their deliberations lead to justice and peace  
in our world.*

For civil officials in our own country:

~ *May their work promote the well-being  
of all citizens, especially the most needy.*

For the administrators of our Mercy ministries:

~ *May their leadership promote the effective use of  
the talents of many.*

## PRAYER

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ is the head of every ruler and authority. In him we have an example of compassionate leadership and merciful service. Help us and our leaders to follow his example in all things. We make this prayer with confidence in your constant care for us. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 12:12 – 13, 27*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and everything they owned was held in common. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, our Risen Savior, through our baptism we have been united with you. We pray for the grace we need to live in union and charity, in the many communities of which we are a part:

*~ Help us to become one heart and soul  
in you.*

In the universal church, present throughout the world:



In our diocesan and parish church:

Among the Sisters of Mercy throughout  
the world:

Among those with whom we share local  
community:

Among those with whom we minister:

### PRAYER

Jesus, through the gift of your Spirit we are one in you. Help us to appreciate all the special qualities that make us different from one another, and help us to overcome any fear or prejudice which might separate us from one another. We make this prayer in union with your Spirit who abides in us through your gracious gift. Amen.

TUESDAY  
SECOND, FOURTH  
AND SIXTH WEEKS



MORNING PRAYER

READING

*Acts 4:11 – 12*

This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.”  
There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet mighty in deed and word, before God and all the people, alleluia.*

INTERCESSIONS

O God of the prophets, you sent your Son Jesus as the last and greatest of the prophets. In his name we pray for all those who seek salvation:

~ *Enfold them in your saving love.*

We pray for the Jewish people:

We pray for the followers of Islam:

We pray for Christians separated by ancient quarrels:

We pray for those who have yet to hear the gospel preached:

We pray for those who have strayed from the path of their earlier commitment to Christ:

### PRAYER

O God, your plan of salvation rests on the cornerstone of Jesus, but it reveals itself in countless ways throughout the ages and in this, our time. We praise you for your wisdom and goodness in calling to yourself all people from every race and nation. We ask you to bless with salvation all who seek to respond to your love. We make this prayer in union with Jesus in whose name we are all blessed and saved. Amen.

### EVENING PRAYER



### READING

*Ephesians 2:4 – 5a, 6 – 8*

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive

together with Christ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.  
Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Christ Jesus, through your life, death and resurrection, we have received the riches of God's mercy. Help us to share that mercy with all who are in need.

For victims of domestic and civil violence, we pray:

*~ In your mercy heal their wounds.*

For those suffering from illness or disability, we pray:

*~ In your mercy bring them comfort  
and strength.*

For persons who are homeless or fleeing from poverty or repression, we pray:

*~ In your mercy show them the way to  
safe shelter.*

For prisoners and those who are awaiting trial,  
we pray:

*~ In your mercy give them understanding and  
compassion.*

For those suffering from addiction to chemical  
substances, we pray:

*~ In your mercy help them overcome their  
dependency.*

## PRAYER

Christ Jesus, your love for us invites us to love you; your great kindness to us teaches us to be kind to others; your mercy to us inspires us in our vocation of mercy. During this Easter season may we come to know and cherish more deeply the immeasurable riches of your gift to us. This we ask in a spirit of thanksgiving. Amen.

WEDNESDAY  
SECOND, FOURTH  
AND SIXTH WEEKS



MORNING PRAYER

READING

*Romans 5:10 – 11*

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us?" Alleluia!*

INTERCESSIONS

O God, you sent your Son Jesus to reconcile us to you and to show us how to live lives worthy of the name Christian. We pray today for our

Mercy family, that we may be worthy of the gifts you have given us:

~ *Bless and protect them, we pray.*

For our benefactors, that they may be rewarded for their generosity to us and to our ministries:

For our associates, that they may grow in their love for the charism of Mercy:

For our Mercy Corps members, that they may be enriched by their Mercy service:

For our employees and co-workers in our Mercy ministries, that they may share in the inspiration of Catherine McAuley:

For those discerning a call to Mercy, that they may recognize and respond to the voice of the Spirit:

For all Sisters of Mercy, that we may be faithful and generous followers of Catherine McAuley:

~ *Bless and protect us, we pray.*

## PRAYER

O God, look with favor on all those who serve you in the spirit of Mercy. The first disciples of your Son Jesus loved him beyond measure and followed him even unto death. May our hearts burn with love for him, and may our works show forth the same zeal and generosity. This we ask with confidence in your desire to reconcile all people to yourself. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *2 Timothy 2:8, 11 – 13*

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David — that is my gospel. If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Simon Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you taught Simon Peter the power of love by your forgiveness of his betrayal. Help us to forgive all injuries and so to be faithful to your example:

*~ May we respond with loving hearts,  
we pray.*

When we are overlooked and others are recognized and rewarded:

When we are injured through the carelessness or willful intent of others:



When we are offended by the words or deeds of others:

When we are misunderstood and unfairly criticized:

When we are deprived of anything needed for our daily life or ministry:

### PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you cannot deny your very nature. You know everything. You know how often we fail and how much we long to be forgiven. Forgive us our sins and help us to forgive others with the same generosity you showed to Simon Peter, to Mary Magdalene and to your other followers. We make this prayer with confidence in your constant love for us. Amen.

# THURSDAY

## SECOND AND FOURTH WEEKS



### MORNING PRAYER

#### READING

##### *Romans 6:3 – 5*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

#### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been give to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Alleluia!*

#### INTERCESSIONS

God our Creator, you sent your Son Jesus that we might walk in newness of life. Help us share this life as ministers of the gospel:

~ *May we lead others to you.*

Through our ministry of education:  
Through our ministry of health care:  
Through our ministry of pastoral care:  
Through our ministry of social work:  
Through our ministry of providing shelter:  
Through our ministry of prayer and patient  
suffering:

## PRAYER

God our Creator, our Mercy ministries are expressions of our desire to serve you by serving our neighbor. Through these many expressions of our charism, may we relieve misery, address its causes, and support all persons who struggle for full dignity. We make this prayer through the intercession of Catherine McAuley, who reached out with courage and love to the needy of her time. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## READING

### *1 Corinthians 15:20 – 22*

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since

death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ, your death and resurrection is the sign and guarantee of eternal life for all who believe in you. We pray this evening for all who have gone before us in faith, asking you to welcome them into life everlasting:

*~ May they enjoy eternal life with you.*

For those who have died as victims of crime or the effects of poverty, we pray:

For those who have died from famine or natural disaster, we pray:

For our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors, we pray:

For the deceased employees of our institutions and co-workers in ministry, we pray:

For the deceased members of our Institute, we pray:

## PRAYER

Jesus, we believe that you have gone before us to prepare a place for us. We believe that one day we will be united with you and enjoy a new heaven and a new earth. During our earthly passage, keep us safe from harm, especially from anything which could separate us from your love. We make this prayer in the certain hope of one day being united with you for all eternity. Amen.

# FRIDAY SECOND AND FOURTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

*Acts 2:32, 36*

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; Jesus is not here, for he has been raised." Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Triune God, you chose women to be the first witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. Today you still choose them to witness to your creating, redeeming, and vivifying love. We pray for women this morning, that they may respond generously and joyously to the mission you have entrusted to them.

We pray for mothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers:

~ *Strengthen and guide them as they nurture new life.*

We pray for women caring for sick or elderly family members:

~ *Strengthen and guide them in their ministry to the needy and vulnerable.*

We pray for women serving in public office or working for social change:

~ *Strengthen and guide them in their efforts to promote the common good.*

We pray for women poets, artists and musicians:

~ *Strengthen and guide them as they create new reflections of your beauty.*

We pray for Sisters of Mercy everywhere:

~ *Strengthen and guide us in the vocation to which you have called us.*

## PRAYER

Creating, redeeming, life-giving God, your message to the first witnesses of the resurrection was to fear not. Despite the difficulties and hardships we encounter from time to time, we cherish that same message today. You are the ground of our belief, the source of our hope, the object of our love. Help us to live without

fear in order that we may faithfully do your will for us. We make this prayer in your name. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

*Ephesians 4:22a, 23 – 24*

You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, your commandment of love surpasses every other teaching. We pray tonight that we may be worthy of the teaching and example you gave us:

*~ Teach us to live in true righteousness and holiness.*



When we fail to love one another as you have loved us:

When we forget to reach out to those who are poor and in need:

When we lose sight of the new way of life to which you call us:

When we neglect the treasures of your word and sacraments:

When we betray the commitments we have made in our baptism and religious profession:

## PRAYER

Jesus, renew us in your Spirit that we may be formed and reformed in God's likeness. You taught us a path of love by your word and example. Help us to be faithful to the gospel we profess and zealous in the ministries to which we have committed ourselves. This we ask with confidence in your abiding love. Amen.

# SATURDAY SECOND AND FOURTH WEEKS



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Colossians 1:11 – 14*

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus said to them, "While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."  
Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

As another day begins, we give thanks for the gift of light which God gives us through his

Son Jesus. We pray today for the guidance and intercession of holy women and men who reflect your light to us:

~ *For this we pray, O God.*

May the apostles and doctors of the church teach us to be responsive to God's mercy:

May the martyrs of old and of our own day show us how to proclaim your word with courage:

May Catherine McAuley and all religious founders lead us to a deeper appreciation of our religious call:

May all holy women and men who have gone to their reward encourage us to persevere in hope and fidelity to the gospel:

May our deceased sisters and associates enjoy the reward of their labors:

## PRAYER

O God of the universe, give us the grace to become children of light. Strengthen our belief, enliven our works, forgive our failings, and make ready the place you have prepared for us with the saints in light. We make this prayer with gratitude for their example and with confidence in the power of their intercession. Amen.

# SUNDAY THIRD AND FIFTH WEEKS



## EVENING PRAYER I

### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 15:3 – 6*

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Christ Jesus, we enter into night's rest grateful for the gifts of the day and confident of the sun's rising tomorrow. Trusting in your love, we place these prayers before you.

We ask for forgiveness for the ways we have failed to respond with charity, patience, or courage to the challenges of this day:

~ *Christ Jesus, heal us.*

We ask for renewed zeal in our Mercy commitment to address the needs of our time:

~ *Christ Jesus, enliven us.*

We ask you to console those who face the night with fearful and anxious hearts:

~ *Christ Jesus, comfort them.*

We ask you to relieve those enduring hunger, pain, or loneliness anywhere in the world:

~ *Christ Jesus, be merciful to them.*

We ask you to bless the ministers of the church, that they may proclaim the Good News to all creation:

~ *Christ Jesus, strengthen them.*

## PRAYER

Christ Jesus, after three days in darkness, you arose to new life. May we rise in the morning, refreshed and filled with zeal for the proclamation of your gospel. May our days be spent in the service of your people; may our ordinary works be songs of praise. We make this prayer with faith and trust in your constant care for us. Amen.

## MORNING PRAYER



### READING

*Acts 10:40 – 43*

God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*The one who believes and is baptized will be saved.  
Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, you raised up Jesus on the third day and allowed him to appear to certain witnesses; Jesus in turn commanded these witnesses to preach to all the people. Today we are heirs of that testimony and hear the same command. Therefore, we pray:

*~ May the Good News be preached to  
all people.*

Through the efforts of the pope and the clergy:  
Through the efforts of men and women  
religious throughout the world:  
Through the efforts of parents, guardians and  
caretakers of children:  
Through the efforts of theologians, teachers  
and catechists:  
Through the efforts of Sisters of Mercy and  
their collaborators in ministry:

## PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of salvation made possible through the life, death and resurrection of your Son and the power of your Spirit. In our life's journey, each of us was led to baptism and nurtured in the faith through the efforts of others. May we be apostles to those we meet, so that they too may share in your infinite gift. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER II



## READING

### *2 Corinthians 5:14 – 15*

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore

all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for Christ who died and was raised for them.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, loving Savior, the gift of your life and death and the miracle of your resurrection gave new meaning to the Mosaic law and the ancient prophecies. Help us to continue to grow in your saving knowledge.

For those who govern in the Church and in our Mercy Institute:

*~ May they grow in grace and truth, we pray.*

For those who govern our towns and cities, states and nations:

For children who are growing in body and maturing in insight:

For women discerning a call to a Mercy vocation:

For confessors, counselors, and spiritual directors:



## PRAYER

Jesus Christ, your love urges us to live for you and to love and serve others in union with you. Help us to recognize the needs of our friends and neighbors, of strangers and those who are far off. Help us to see you in them and to respond with loving hearts and generous hands. We make this prayer with gratitude for the love with which you have first loved us. Amen.

# ASCENSION



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

God ascends to shouts of joy.  
The Lord amid trumpet blasts. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise the Lord, all you nations.  
Acclaim God, all you peoples. Alleluia, Alleluia!

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 117

*Praise! Give glory to God!*

Praise! Give glory to God!  
Nations, peoples, give glory!

Strong the love embracing us.  
Faithful the Lord for ever.

Hallelujah!

#### REVELATION 11:17–18; 12:10b–12a

*Citizens of heaven, rejoice!*

We thank you, Lord,  
God and ruler of all,  
who is and who was.  
You have claimed your power  
and begun to reign.

When the nations raged  
your anger stirred.  
Then was the moment  
to judge the dead,  
to reward your servants, the prophets,  
to honor your holy ones  
who honored your name,  
small and great alike.

Now is salvation,  
the power and reign of God;  
the Christ holds command.  
For the one who accused the saints  
day and night before God  
has now been driven out.

They won the battle  
by the blood of the Lamb,  
and by the power of their witness  
despite the threat of death.  
Citizens of heaven, rejoice.

## READING

### *Ephesians 2:4 – 7*

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love  
with which he loved us even when we were dead

through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*In Christ you are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, you ascended to the heavens and reign over all the earth. Though we cannot see you, we know that you are near. You have promised to be with us always, even to the end of time, and so we pray:

*~ Be with your people, Lord.*

In the pursuit of justice for the poor:

In the effort to provide affordable housing for the homeless:

In the promotion of human rights:

In the creation and performance of the arts:

In the instruction of youth and children:

In the visitation of the sick and imprisoned:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, your glory fills the universe. All peoples praise you for the wonders you have worked among us. As we remember the mystery of Christ's death and rising, help us to remember that he has not left us orphans. We have not known his touch or seen his face, but we believe that he is with us now. Deepen our faith. Open our eyes to see his presence in our midst. Amen.

## BLESSING

Christ be before me and behind me. *Amen.*

Christ be on my right and on my left. *Amen.*

Christ be within me and around me, never to part. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



## GREETING

God ascends to shouts of joy.  
The Lord amid trumpet blasts. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the Lord, all you nations.  
Acclaim God, all you peoples. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## DOXOLOGY

## PSALM 113

*God's glory shines over the heavens.*

Servants of God, praise,  
praise the name of the Lord.  
Bless the Lord's name  
now and always.  
Praise the Lord's name  
here and in every place,  
from east to west.

The Lord towers above nations,  
God's glory shines over the heavens.  
Who compares to our God?  
Who is enthroned so high?

The Lord bends down  
to see heaven and earth,  
to raise the weak from the dust  
and lift the poor from the mire,  
to seat them with princes  
in the company of their leaders.

The childless, no longer alone,  
rejoice now in many children.

Hallelujah!

## 1 TIMOTHY 3:16

*Christ is taken up in glory.*

Astounding mystery  
at the heart of our faith:

One who appeared in human flesh, alleluia!  
was attested by the Spirit, alleluia!  
seen by angels, alleluia!  
proclaimed to Gentiles, alleluia!  
believed in by the world, alleluia!  
taken up in glory, alleluia!

## READING

### *Hebrews 9:24*

For Christ 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.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*I am ascending to my God and your God. Alleluia!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Christ Jesus, you stand before God pleading on our behalf. You know the needs of your people. Answer us as we pray to you:

*~ Christ Jesus, our hope and our salvation, have mercy on your people.*

We bring to you our brothers and sisters who suffer under political regimes that deny basic human freedoms:

We bring to you abused and battered children who have no one to protect them:

We bring to you the young people who have no one to guide them to maturity:

We bring to you those suffering from famine and drought:

We bring to you the refugees and immigrants who struggle to build new lives in unfamiliar environments:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, your glory fills the universe. All peoples praise you for the wonders you have worked among us. As we remember the mystery of Christ's death and rising, help us to remember that he has not left us orphans. We have not known his touch or seen his face, but we believe that he is with us now. Deepen our faith. Open our eyes to see his presence in our midst. Amen.

### BLESSING

Christ be before me and behind me. *Amen.*

Christ be on my right and on my left. *Amen.*

Christ be within me and around me, never to part. *Amen.*



## EVENING PRAYER II



GREETING  
AS IN MORNING PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

PSALM 93

*You reign with glory, Lord, the beauty of holiness fills  
you for ever.*

Lord, you reign with glory,  
draped in splendor, girt with power.  
The world stands firm,  
not to be shaken,  
for your throne, ageless God,  
has stood from of old.

Onward roll the waves, O God,  
onward like thunder,  
onward like fury.  
Thundering above the waters,  
high above ocean breakers,  
you, God, rise with might.

Your decrees stand unshaken;  
the beauty of holiness  
fills you for ever, Lord.

## COLOSSIANS 1:15-18

*In Christ all things in heaven and on earth  
were created.*

Christ is an image  
of the God we cannot see.  
Christ is firstborn in all creation.

Through Christ the universe was made,  
things seen and unseen,  
thrones, authorities, forces, powers.  
Everything was created  
through Christ and for Christ.

Before anything came to be, Christ was,  
and the universe is held together by Christ.

Christ is also head of the body, the church,  
its beginning as firstborn from the dead  
to become in all things first.

## READING

### *1 Peter 3:18*

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the  
righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring  
you to God. He was put to death in the flesh,  
but made alive in the spirit.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Christ ascended into heaven and is seated at the right  
hand of God. Alleluia!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you died that we might live. In you we have been offered the gift of intimacy with God and eternal joy. At the close of this day we pray to you:

~ *Let our hearts rejoice in you.*

As day fades into night:

As young people grow to maturity:

As the seasons of our lives turn:

As our ambitions and hopes are released into your hands:

As pursuit of our own priorities is transformed into passion for your mission:

As you become the center of our lives:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER AND BLESSING AS IN MORNING PRAYER

# FRIDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Galatians 5:22 – 26*

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided  
by the Spirit.*

### INTERCESSIONS

At the beginning of this day we remember that the Spirit of God empowers us to live as Jesus did, and so we pray:

~ *Spirit of God, energize us.*

We pray to love inclusively, conscious that like Jesus we are called to be reconcilers and advocates for those who are marginalized and poor:

We pray to proclaim the Good News joyfully in a world where there is so much sadness, cynicism and despair:

We pray for peace among nations and within our cities, communities and families:

We pray for patience when we are unwilling to wait, to listen, or to understand:

We pray to be kind as we struggle in compassionate outreach to others:

We pray for gentleness in our relationships and generosity in our actions:

We pray to respond faithfully to God's invitation to love others as God has loved us:

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

*1 John 3:23 — 4:3a*

This is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*We are the dwelling place of the Spirit who abides in us.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We learn what it means to be Spirit-filled persons by looking at Jesus whom the Spirit of God sustained throughout his life and through his death into resurrected life. And so we pray with thankfulness and trust:

Jesus, you pitched your tent among us:

~ *Teach us to honor our daily activities as moments of grace.*

Jesus, your love knew no boundaries or distinctions:

~ *Teach us never to withhold our love from our brothers or sisters.*

Jesus, you are the compassion of God:

~ *Teach us to hear the cries of the suffering in our world.*

Jesus, you faced conflict, suffering and death with confident trust:

~ *Teach us never to doubt your presence with us in times of trial.*

Jesus, you were faithful unto death:

~ *Teach us the way of faithfulness and obedience.*

Jesus, you did not leave us orphaned but bestowed on us the gift of your Spirit:

~ *Teach us to listen and respond to the voice of the Spirit speaking in our hearts and in our world.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.



# SATURDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Ephesians 3:14 – 19*

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*May our inner being be strengthened through the power of the Spirit.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you gave us the power of your Spirit that we might know you and follow the way you have shown us. In our baptism we became home to that indwelling Spirit. In trust we pray:

~ *Spirit of God, guide us.*

Spirit of God, you wait patiently for your people to hear and respond to your urgings:

~ *May we recognize you in the events of this day and attend to your inspirations.*

Spirit of God, you overshadowed Mary and she became the mother of Jesus:

~ *Pour out your grace upon our family of Mercy that we may be strengthened to minister to the needs of women and children.*

Spirit of God, you are the source of wisdom:

~ *Enable us to hear your voice as you guide and challenge us in the choices we make.*

Spirit of God, you are the breath that hovers over the waters bringing forth life:

~ *Breathe in us now, that your word of mercy may be spoken anew to those with whom we live and work.*

Spirit of God, you are the source of life and blessing:

~ *May we use our spiritual, intellectual and material gifts to ensure a better, more equitable society*

*where the rights of all people are upheld and where  
violence is transformed into peace.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

# SUNDAY SEVENTH WEEK



## EVENING PRAYER I

### READING

*1 Kings 3:9 – 12a*

“Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind.”

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Give your servant an understanding mind,  
able to discern between good and evil.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of Understanding, give us discerning hearts  
that we may discover your will and desire.

For ethicists and those in judicial service:

*~ May their judgments be rooted in truth and reverence for life.*

For medical personnel and caregivers:

*~ May respect for human dignity and compassion guide their decisions.*

For inventors and scientists:

*~ May the pursuit of new technology be guided by care for the earth's limited resources and the needs of the poor.*

For all women and men called to consecrated life:

*~ May their choice be a faithful response to the call of the Spirit.*

For the youth of the world:

*~ May the lure of wealth, material affluence, or dominance not deter them from committing their lives to the service of others.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen

## MORNING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Wisdom 6:12 – 16*

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Wisdom hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, our source of light and wisdom, give us hearts that seek the truth. In our comings and goings show us the way of holiness. Illumine our experience and fire our world with your Spirit.

Spirit of God, you hover over the world to make it holy:

~ *Enable us to bring order and harmony into the chaos and disunity of our world.*

Spirit of God, the earth is filled with your glory:

~ *Give us eyes to see the sacred in all creation.*

Spirit of God, you come that we may know the joy of union with you:

~ *Make us conscious of your presence within ourselves and others.*

Spirit of God, you make all things new:

~ *Move us beyond the blessings of the past into a future full of grace and hope.*

Spirit of God, you are faithful, from the rising of the sun to its setting:

~ *Help us to be faithful to our commitment to carry your saving word to the ends of the earth.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our

lives that all our acts may give glory to God,  
today and always. Abide with us that we may  
abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER II



### READING

#### *Sirach 15:1 – 3*

Whoever fears the Lord will do this, and  
whoever holds to the law will obtain wisdom.  
She will come to meet him like a mother,  
and like a young bride she will welcome him.  
She will feed him with the bread of learning,  
and give him the water of wisdom to drink.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Wisdom shall feed us with the bread of learning.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Sophia, holy Wisdom, come and illumine our  
minds. Breathe in us, Spirit of Wisdom, and  
awaken us to your will:

~ *Come, Wisdom of God.*

Give us hearts eager to receive new life, we pray:

Embrace us in your mercy, we pray:



Open our eyes to life's illusions, we pray:  
Make us alert to human cries, we pray:  
Help us to speak your words of hope, we pray:  
Guide our personal and corporate decisions,  
we pray:

### PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

# MONDAY SEVENTH WEEK



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *2 Corinthians 3:4–6*

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, you have called us to be ministers of the Good News of salvation. You have poured forth your Spirit upon us and strengthened us to be witnesses to your love and mercy. Complete the work you have begun in us, O God.

For all called to the ministry of the word, for teachers, preachers and writers:

*~ May they pass on to others the richness of your revelation.*

For all called to the ministry of the table, for presbyters, eucharistic ministers and liturgists:

*~ May they animate our worship and nourish your people with the food that sustains.*

For all called to the ministry of leadership, for bishops, leaders of religious communities and lay ministers:

*~ May they have the gifts of discernment and courage in the discharge of their duties.*

For all called to the ministry of social justice, for political advocates, social workers and community organizers:

*~ May they not grow weary in their efforts to build a better world.*

For all called to the ministry of healing, for doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, counselors and therapists:

*~ May they convey the gentle, compassionate love of Jesus to those who are sick or wounded.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring

about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Jeremiah 23:16 – 18, 21 – 22*

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you; they are deluding you. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They keep saying to those who despise the word of the Lord, “It shall be well with you”; and to all who stubbornly follow their own stubborn hearts, they say, “No calamity shall come upon you.” For who has stood in the council of the Lord so as to see and to hear his word? Who has given heed to his word so as to proclaim it? I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words

to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*If you would seek life, listen to the counsel of our God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of Counsel, lift from our hearts the cloud of uncertainty. Fix our eyes upon Jesus that we may choose what gives life. We come to you asking that you transform us and our world.

Give us listening hearts:

*~ Teach us to hold sacred each person's story, each person's dream.*

Give us compassionate hearts:

*~ Use our hands to ease the pain of others.*

Give us vision to see the invisible poor among us:

*Help us never to be blind to another's need.*

Give us fluent tongues to name injustice:

*Strengthen us to speak the challenging message of the gospel.*

Give us energy to not grow weary of doing good:

*~ Accept our lives, given in service of your people.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

# TUESDAY SEVENTH WEEK



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 2:9 – 13*

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him” — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Faithful One, you are our God in whom we trust. Work through us that we may bring wholeness to a world of brokenness, mistrust and infidelity.

Spirit of Life, fill us with new energy:

~ *That we may be a source of vitality to the fainthearted.*

Spirit of Hope, fill us with expectancy:

~ *That we may lift the clouds of darkness from the hearts of those living in the shadow of despair.*

Spirit of Joy, fill us with happiness:

~ *That we may break the bonds of sadness in the hearts of our sisters and brothers.*

Spirit of Love, grant us your healing power:

~ *That we may be a source of your compassion to all we meet today.*

Spirit of Mercy, permeate our beings:

~ *That we may embrace all human life with gentleness and warmth.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the



fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Colossians 1:9 – 10*

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*May we be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of Knowledge, wipe from our vision whatever may blur our sight and deaden our

spirit. Let us see you in the ordinary blessings of each day.

As we gaze upon the beauty and majesty of creation:

~ *Let us see the reflection of your face.*

As we enjoy the company of friends:

~ *Let us taste the joy of union with you.*

As we experience the peace of solitude and contemplation:

~ *Let us be renewed for service.*

As we extend our hands in loving service to our brothers and sisters:

~ *Let us meet Christ in each person.*

As we bless the dying who go home to you:

~ *Let us trust that they will join you in everlasting joy.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

# WEDNESDAY SEVENTH WEEK



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 6:19 – 20*

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?*

### INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, you sent the Spirit to live in our hearts. You have made us your dwelling place, sacred and precious in your sight. Teach us to respect and honor our bodies as your gift. For all who suffer from eating disorders and addictions:

*~ May they learn to see their bodies as good and holy.*

For all who suffer disfigurement:

*~ May they and others look beyond their scars to the beauty within.*

For all victims of incest, abuse and rape:

*~ May they be healed of their wounds and walk in dignity.*

For all who suffer from chronic or progressive illness:

*~ May they be comforted in their suffering.*

For all who earn their living through advertising:

*~ May they promote images that do not exploit or diminish human worth.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *2 Corinthians 1:18 – 22*

As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been “Yes and No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, was not “Yes and No”; but in him it is always “Yes.” For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*It is through Jesus that we say the “Amen,”  
to the glory of God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of Fortitude, strengthen us this day.  
In and through you may we have the courage  
to challenge the oppression and injustice of  
our society:

*~ Strengthen us, Spirit of God.*

Divest us of illusions of power, superiority  
or acclaim that we may not fear to walk with  
the humble:

Strip us of our excess that we may share our  
abundance with those who are in need:

Kindle in us a passion to speak out against  
racism, prejudice and injustice:

Nurture in us a hunger for prayer and contem-  
plation that our works may be rooted in you:

Open our eyes to see our limitations so that  
we may rely on you and cast ourselves into the  
arms of your loving providence:

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up  
in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring  
about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy  
Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our  
tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the  
fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our  
lives that all our acts may give glory to God,  
today and always. Abide with us that we may  
abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

# THURSDAY SEVENTH WEEK



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

#### *Philippians 1:27 – 28*

Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, in Jesus you gave us a model to follow. He has shown us the way to life and holiness. Let us live in the pattern of his love and die in the pattern of his death.

The Spirit overshadowed Jesus at the Jordan as you named him your Beloved Son:

*~ May we be identified as his disciples by the compassion we show for our brothers and sisters.*

The Spirit anointed Jesus to bring the Good News to the poor:

*~ May we proclaim the Good News to the poor and set the captives free.*

The Spirit led Jesus into the desert:

*~ May we be led through our personal deserts into the fullness of life.*

The Spirit descended upon the frightened disciples at Pentecost and transformed them into fearless messengers of the gospel:

*~ May we be filled with bold, courageous faith to speak your truth to the world.*

The Spirit remains with us so that we may not be left abandoned:

*~ May we be guided by the Spirit in all that we do.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the



fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *2 Timothy 1:3 – 7*

I am grateful to God when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and you mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Remember to rekindle the gift of God that is within you.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of Piety, your people have longed to see your face and taste the sweetness of your presence. Our hearts thirst for you as a deer thirsts for flowing streams. Confident that you listen to those who place their trust in you, we pray.

For all teachers of prayer, spiritual directors and persons in retreat ministry:

*~ May the witness of their lives and the depth of their union with you bring others to Christ.*

For all parents and grandparents:

*~ May the example they give in daily life be a source of inspiration to their children and grandchildren.*

For all missionaries and evangelists:

*~ May their reverence for the religious expressions of the people to whom they minister foster the growth of God's kingdom.*

For all who long to discover you in the midst of daily activity:

*~ May they see your presence in the ordinary events of life.*

For all artists, musicians, poets and dancers:

*~ May the beauty they create nurture a sense of the holy.*

For all our ancestors in faith:

*~ May we learn from them the way of piety and reverence.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

# FRIDAY SEVENTH WEEK



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

*Romans 8:14–17*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

God, our mother and father, you have chosen us to be children of the light, free and honored. Through the power of your Spirit, give us the

determination to eliminate those forces that rob others of their rightful dignity:

~ *Hasten the day of freedom, O God.*

That no child will be unfed, unloved, unsheltered, or unwanted:

That no woman or man will be tortured, slain, raped or falsely imprisoned:

That no person will be victimized by gang warfare, violent crime, abuse or incest:

That no person will be demeaned by the lash of racism, sexism or ageism:

That no child will be asked to live in a world where air is polluted, land is destroyed and rivers are toxic:

That no person will live in a world without hope or meaning:

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



### READING

#### *Deuteronomy 10:12 – 13*

So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Let us walk in God's ways. Let us love and serve God with all our heart.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of Wonder and Awe, creation stands hushed in silent worship of you. Stir up in us a deep awareness that you are our all.

You have made the universe to be a reflection of your glory:

*~ May we reverence the earth, its waters and its land as the gift of your hand.*

You have made woman and man in your image:

*~ May we see you in all the persons we meet and reverence your presence within them.*

You have bestowed the gifts of your Spirit upon your people:

~ *May we support the mystic and the prophet and walk with the healer and the teacher.*

You are beyond our knowing. Your ways are beyond our comprehension:

~ *May we praise you, holy, inexhaustible Mystery.*

You are the center from whom we go forward or stay back:

~ *May we be rooted in mercy, our gaze fixed on Christ Jesus.*

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

# SATURDAY SEVENTH WEEK



## MORNING PRAYER

### READING

*Acts 1:12 – 13a, 14*

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promised Advocate.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of God, you came upon the disciples in the upper room. Come once more and empower us as witnesses to Christ Jesus:

~ *Come, Spirit of God.*



Come, Spirit of Wisdom:  
Come, Spirit of Knowledge:  
Come, Spirit of Counsel:  
Come, Spirit of Understanding:  
Come, Spirit of Fortitude:  
Come, Spirit of Piety:  
Come, Spirit of Wonder and Awe:

### PRAYER

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongues the words to praise you, our hearts the fervor to love you. Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

# SOLEMNITIES

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Not knowing what to do,  
I have only to lift up  
my eyes to you, O Lord.

M. & M. Auley

# PENTECOST



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

Come, Spirit of God!  
Come with your power to transform us.  
Come, Fire of Love!  
Come with your wisdom to enlighten us.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 33

*Spirit of justice, come free those who are  
held captive. Let those who are poor see your saving  
power.*

Shout joy to the Lord,  
lovers of justice,  
how right to praise!  
Praise God on the harp,  
with ten-string lyre  
sing to the Lord.

Sing God a new song.  
Play music to match  
your shout of joy.

For the word of the Lord is true:  
what God says, God does.  
This lover of truth and justice  
fills the earth with love.

God speaks: the heavens are made;  
God breathes: the stars shine.  
God bottles the waters of the sea  
and stores them in the deep.

All earth, be astounded,  
stand in awe of God.  
God speaks: the world is;  
God commands: all things appear.

God blocks the plans of nations,  
disrupts all they contrive.  
But God's plan and design  
lasts from age to age.  
Blest the land whose god is the Lord,  
the heirs whom God has chosen.

The Lord looks down  
and sees our human kind.  
From heaven God surveys  
all peoples on earth.  
The maker of human hearts  
knows every human act.

Armies do not save kings,  
brute force does not spare soldiers.  
The warhorse is a sham;  
despite its power, it will not save.

God keeps a loving eye  
on all who believe,  
on those who count on God  
to bring relief from famine,  
to rescue them from death.

With all we are, we wait for God,  
the Lord, our help, our shield.  
Our hearts find joy in the Lord;  
we trust God's holy name.  
Love us, Lord!  
We wait for you.

#### REVELATION 19:1-7

*Send forth your Spirit, O God, and we shall be renewed.*

Alleluia!  
Salvation, glory and power to God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia! \_\_\_\_\_  
Right and sure, the judgments of God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia! —  
Praise our God, you faithful servants!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

In awe praise God, you small and great!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia! —  
The Lord God almighty rules!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Be glad, rejoice, give glory to God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia! —  
The wedding feast of the Lamb begins.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
The bride is radiant, clothed in glory.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

—  
**READING**

*1 Corinthians 12:7 – 11*

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Spirit of the Living God, my tongue shall sing your praise.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you promised to send your Spirit to us, and we know that your promise is fulfilled among us. This evening we pray for openness to receive your Spirit.

Give all nations your Spirit of peace:

*~ May they be open to reconciling differences and building bridges of understanding.*

Send your Spirit of hope to all who minister in your name:

*~ May they be beacons of hope for others.*

Rain down your Spirit of life over all the earth:

*~ May all persons be given the opportunity to develop and use their gifts for the common good.*

Enkindle in us your Spirit of forgiveness:

*~ May whatever binds our world in animosity and alienation be broken, and may all be restored through reconciliation.*

Grant your Spirit of joy to all who are in sorrow:

*~ May they find consolation in the depth of your love and presence.*



Send your Spirit of compassion to comfort  
your people:

~ *May those who live by your name remember your  
compassion to the outcast  
and the poor.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

O God, we believe that in the bursting forth of  
your Spirit the face of the earth is renewed. Help  
us to recognize the working of the Spirit among  
us so that we may be open to transformation.  
Let us use our gifts for the empowerment of  
others. We ask this in the name of Jesus whose  
promises never fail. Amen.

### BLESSING

May the Spirit of God dwell within us. *Amen.*

May the Spirit of God animate us. *Amen.*

May the Spirit of God create new hearts in us.  
*Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

Come, Spirit of God!  
Come with your power to transform us.  
Come, Fire of Love!  
Come with your wisdom to enlighten us.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 113

*God's glory shines over the heavens. Who compares to our God?*

Servants of God, praise,  
praise the name of the Lord.  
Bless the Lord's name  
now and always.  
Praise the Lord's name  
here and in every place,  
from east to west.

The Lord towers above nations,  
God's glory shines over the heavens.  
Who compares to our God?  
Who is enthroned so high?

The Lord bends down  
to see heaven and earth,  
to raise the weak from the dust  
and lift the poor from the mire,  
to seat them with princes  
in the company of their leaders.

The childless, no longer alone,  
rejoice now in many children.

Hallelujah!

#### EZEKIEL 36:24-28

*Be glad, rejoice, give glory to God!*

I will draw you from the nations,  
gather you from exile  
and bring you home.

I will wash you in fresh water,  
rid you from the filth of idols  
and make you clean again.

I will make you a new heart,  
breathe new spirit into you.  
I will remove your heart of stone,  
give you back a heart of flesh.

I will give you my own spirit  
to lead you in my ways,  
faithful to what I command.

Then you will live in the land,  
the land I gave your ancestors.  
You will be my people  
and I will be your God.

## READING

### *Acts 2:14 – 17*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams.’”

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you promised us the Spirit to be our advocate and guide. Recognizing your fidelity and our many needs, we pray:

~ *Fill us with your Spirit, and send us forth to serve you.*

That we may be renewed in heart and mind:

That we may see you in your people who are poor:

That we may speak the truth in love:

That we may make wise choices for the common good:

That we may work to bring about a new heaven and a new earth:

That we may be credible witnesses to your mercy:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Spirit of Jesus, on Pentecost you stirred the apostles to go out and proclaim the Good News. You blessed them with the faith and courage to carry the gospel throughout the world. Enkindle in us zeal for the coming of the kingdom. Translate our vision of a more loving world into daily acts of justice. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our friend and Savior. Amen.

### BLESSING

May the Spirit of God dwell within us. *Amen.*

May the Spirit of God animate us. *Amen.*

May the Spirit of God create new hearts in us. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



GREETING  
AS IN MORNING PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

PSALM 148

*Spirit of the living God, come dwell in us.*

Praise the Lord!  
Across the heavens,  
from the heights,  
all you angels, heavenly beings,  
sing praise, sing praise!

Sun and moon, glittering stars,  
sing praise, sing praise.  
Highest heavens, rain clouds,  
sing praise, sing praise.

Praise God's name,  
whose word called you forth  
and fixed you in place for ever  
by eternal decree.

Let there be praise:  
from depths of the earth,  
from creatures of the deep.

Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
storms, winds,  
mountains, hills,  
fruit trees and cedars,  
wild beasts and tame,  
snakes and birds,

princes, judges,  
rulers, subjects,  
men, women,  
old and young,  
praise, praise the holy name,  
this name beyond all names.

God's splendor above the earth,  
above the heavens,  
gives strength to the nation,  
glory to the faithful,  
a people close to the Lord.  
Israel, let there be praise!

### ISAIAH 12:1-6

*Tell the world what God does, make known this majestic name.*

I praise you, Lord!  
When your rage turned on me,  
you turned it away  
and now you console me.

God is my savior,  
my trust knows no fear;  
God's strength is my strength,  
yes, God is my savior.

With joy you will draw water  
from God's saving well;  
then you will say to each other,  
"Praise the Lord! proclaim God's name!"

Tell the world what God does,  
make known this majestic name.  
Sing the wonders God works,  
recount them in every land.

Shout and sing for joy,  
citizens of Zion,  
for great among you  
is the Holy One of Israel!

## READING

### *Isaiah 61:1 – 2a, 3a*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead



of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God, in your mercy you listen to the cries of the poor. You desire freedom for all your children and joy for all peoples. Let your Spirit fill us with the courage to carry on the mission of Jesus.

Your people long to hear a word of hope:

*~ Fill us with the spirit of wisdom that we may know how to speak.*

Your people struggle against oppression:

*~ Fill us with the spirit of courage that we may confront injustice in political and economic life.*

Your people feel the hurt of brokenness and discouragement:

*~ Fill us with the spirit of compassion that we may heal the wounded.*

Your people languish in the captivities of addiction, discrimination and alienation:

*~ Fill us with the spirit of counsel that we may be their guides to freedom.*

Your people feel the effects of aging, diminishment and disease:

*~ Fill us with the spirit of mercy that we may accompany them in their pain.*

Your people delight in praising you:

*~ Fill us with the spirit of praise and thanksgiving that we may worship you.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Spirit of God, you came in the form of fire and wind to the apostles and disciples. In your coming you changed timidity into boldness and fear into prophetic witness. Come to us, we pray, and transform our hearts. Enkindle in us your fire on the earth. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING AS IN MORNING PRAYER

# THE HOLY TRINITY



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

God to guide me, God to teach me.  
God to protect me by night and by day.  
God, Holy Trinity, in love unending,  
glory to you forever and ever.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 24

*The angel of the Lord appeared in a flame of fire out of a bush; the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.*

God owns this planet  
and all its riches.  
The earth and every creature  
belong to God.

God set the land on top of the seas  
and anchored it in the deep.

Who is fit to climb God's mountain  
and stand in his holy place?

Whoever has integrity:  
not chasing shadows,  
not living lies.

God will bless them,  
their savior will bring justice.  
These people long to see the Lord,  
they seek the face of Jacob's God.

Stretch toward heaven, you gates,  
open high and wide.  
Let the glorious sovereign enter.

Who is this splendid ruler?  
The Lord of power and might,  
the conqueror of chaos.

Stretch toward heaven, you gates,  
open high and wide.  
Let the glorious sovereign enter.

Who is this splendid ruler?  
The Lord of heaven's might,  
this splendid ruler is God.

**DANIEL 3:52-57**

*Praise to you, God of all life. Praise to you, God, three in one.*

Blest are you, God of our ancestors,  
praised and lifted above all for ever!  
Blest your holy name, full of wonder,  
praised and lifted above all for ever!

Blest are you in your temple of glory,  
acclaimed and honored for ever.  
Blest are you who see the depths  
from the cherubim throne,  
praised and lifted above all for ever!

Blest are you enthroned in majesty,  
praised and lifted above all for ever!  
Blest are you beyond the stars,  
acclaimed and honored for ever!

All you creatures, bless our God,  
acclaimed and exalted for ever!

## READING

### *1 John 4:12 – 16*

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have

known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Blessed be the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.*

### INTERCESSIONS

God of all ages, without beginning or end, we offer our praise to you. Faithful God of our mothers and fathers, hear us as we pray:

~ *In your mercy, hear us.*

We ask for zeal, for all those who have been called to proclaim your message of salvation:

We ask for integrity, for all those who have been called to public service:

We ask for courage, for all those who challenge systems of oppression in government, economics and civil life:

We ask for patient endurance, for all those suffering from chronic illness:

We ask for conversion, for your church continually called to transformation:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

We bind unto ourselves today the strong name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same — the Three in One and One in Three. May the power and mercy of you who are Creator give us strength for our journey. May the mercy and love of Christ Jesus, our Redeemer, heal the broken places of our lives. And may the light and mercy of the Spirit empower us to proclaim with all our beings: Glory to you, Holy Trinity, Undivided Unity. Glory and praise forever. Amen.

## BLESSING

May the inexhaustible creativity of God reach out to us. *Amen.*

May the humble generosity of God abide with us. *Amen.*

May the ardent charity of God renew and animate us. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



## GREETING

God to guide me, God to teach me.  
God to protect me by night and by day.  
God, Holy Trinity, in love unending,  
glory to you forever and ever.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 147:1-11

*Great is our God and powerful, wise beyond  
all telling.*

How good to sing God praise!  
How lovely the sound!

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem  
and gathers the exiles of Israel,  
healing the brokenhearted,  
binding their aching wounds.

God fixes the number of stars,  
calling each by name.  
Great is our God and powerful,  
wise beyond all telling.  
The Lord upholds the poor  
but lets the wicked fall.

Sing thanks to the Lord,  
sound the harp for our God.  
The Lord stretches the clouds,  
sending rain to the earth,  
clothing mountains with green.



The Lord feeds the cattle  
and young ravens when they call.  
A horse's strength, a runner's speed —  
they count for nothing!  
The Lord favors the reverent,  
those who trust in God's mercy.

### EPHESIANS 1:3–10

*Alleluia! Salvation, glory and power to God! Alleluia!*

Bless God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who blessed us from heaven through Christ  
with every blessing of the Spirit.

Before laying the world's foundation,  
God chose us in Christ  
to live a pure and holy life.

God determined out of love  
to adopt us through Jesus Christ  
for the praise and glory of that grace  
granted us in the Beloved.

By Christ's blood we were redeemed,  
our sins forgiven  
through extravagant love.

With perfect wisdom and insight  
God freely displayed the mystery  
of what was always intended:  
a plan for the fullness of time

to unite the entire universe through Christ.

## READING

### *Romans 11:33 – 36*

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*We bow before the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Catherine McAuley taught us that with the pure intention of pleasing God even the ordinary actions of every day can be full of God, breathe of God, shine with God, be fragrant of God.

As we greet this dawning day, gracious God:

~ *May our ordinary actions be full of love.*

As we rise:

~ *May our hearts be filled with thanksgiving.*

As we go about the business of our lives:

~ *May we see you in each person we serve.*

As we come before you in prayer:

~ *May we be open and responsive to  
your Spirit.*

As we strive to be women of peace in moments  
of conflict:

~ *May we search for the guiding presence  
of your truth.*

As we come together in community:

~ *May we refuse no kindness or mercy to  
our sisters.*

As we share food at our table:

~ *May we welcome the stranger and  
the outcast.*

As we come to this day's end:

~ *May we lie down to rest, trusting in your  
faithfulness.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Faithful God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus. Through the power of your Spirit you come to us and abide with us. We, your children, stand in awe of your boundless love. You have given us Jesus to be our way, truth and life. May we daily come to know him more fully, love him more deeply and follow him

more nearly. This we ask of you, Holy Trinity,  
Undivided Unity. Amen.

### BLESSING

May the inexhaustible creativity of God reach  
out to us. *Amen.*

May the humble generosity of God abide with  
us. *Amen.*

May the ardent charity of God renew and  
animate us. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING AS IN MORNING PRAYER

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 118

*O the depth of the riches and wisdom  
and knowledge of God! May we reverence  
you forever.*

Give thanks, the Lord is good,  
God's love is for ever!  
Now let Israel say,  
"God's love is for ever!"

Let the house of Aaron say,  
“God’s love is for ever!”  
Let all who revere the Lord say,  
“God’s love is for ever!”

In distress I called to the Lord,  
who answered and set me free.  
The Lord is with me, I fear not.  
What can they do to me?  
The Lord my help is with me,  
I can face my foes.

Better to trust in the Lord  
than rely on human help.  
Better to trust in the Lord  
than rely on generous hearts.

The nations surrounded me;  
in God’s name, I will crush them!  
Surrounded me completely;  
in God’s name, I will crush them!  
Surrounded me like bees,  
blazed like brushwood fire;  
in God’s name, I will crush them!

I was pushed to falling,  
but the Lord gave me help.  
My strength, my song is the Lord,  
who has become my savior.

Glad songs of victory sound

within the tents of the just.  
With right hand raised high,  
the Lord strikes with force.

I shall not die but live  
to tell the Lord's great deeds.  
The Lord punished me severely,  
but did not let me die.

Open the gates of justice,  
let me praise God within them.  
This is the Lord's own gate,  
only the just will enter.  
I thank you for you answered me,  
and you became my savior.

The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
how wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord made,  
let us rejoice and be glad.  
Lord, give us the victory!  
Lord, grant us success!

Blest is the one who comes,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the Lord's house.  
The Lord God is our light:  
adorn the altar with branches.

I will thank you, my God,  
I will praise you highly.  
Give thanks, the Lord is good,  
God's love is for ever!

### 1 TIMOTHY 3:16

*God beyond our naming, praise and glory  
to you! Alleluia!*

Astounding mystery  
at the heart of our faith:

One who appeared in human flesh, alleluia!  
was attested by the Spirit, alleluia!  
seen by angels, alleluia!  
proclaimed to Gentiles, alleluia!  
believed in by the world, alleluia!  
taken up in glory, alleluia!

### READING

#### *Deuteronomy 4:7 – 10*

For what other great nation has a god so near  
to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call?  
And what other great nation has statutes and  
ordinances as just as this entire law that I am  
setting before you today? But take care and  
watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget  
the things that your eyes have seen nor to let  
them slip from your mind all the days of life;

make them known to your children and your children's children — how you once stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when the Lord said to me, “Assemble the people for me, and I will let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me as long as they live on the earth, and may teach their children so.”

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Let nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of you, my God, in your own everlasting kingdom.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, Holy One, you are a God beyond our seeing or knowing. We call you many names but never exhaust the mystery of your being. Hear us as we place our needs before you.

God, our father:

*~ Let fathers, stepfathers and foster fathers reflect for their children the mystery of your providence and protection.*

God, our mother:

*~ Let the face of your tender love be seen and recognized in the women of our time.*

Jesus Christ, our brother:

*~ Teach us how to be sisters and brothers to your people.*

Jesus Christ, our friend:



~ *Give us the love that is willing to lay down its own life that another may live.*

Spirit, our advocate:

~ *Fill us with the courage to speak out against injustice in all its forms.*

Spirit, our holy companion, empowering us to cry “Abba”:

~ *Lead us in the way of prayer.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Faithful God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus. Through the power of the Spirit you come to us and abide with us. We, your children, stand in awe of your boundless love. You have given us Jesus to be our way, truth and life. May we daily come to know him more fully, love him more deeply and follow him more nearly. This we ask of you, Holy Trinity, Undivided Unity. Amen.

### BLESSING AS IN MORNING PRAYER

May the ardent charity of God renew and animate us. *Amen.*

## THE BODY AND BLOOD

# OF CHRIST



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

O God, feed us with the bread of your word.  
Let us eat and be filled at your table.  
May we taste your sweetness, O God.  
Fill us with the bread that gives life.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 34:1-11

*Drink in the richness of God, enjoy the strength of the Lord.*

I will never stop thanking God,  
with constant words of praise.  
My soul will boast of God;  
the poor will hear me and be glad.

Join me in praising the Lord,  
together tell of God's name.  
I asked and the Lord responded,  
freed me from all my fears.

Turn to God, be bright with joy;

you shall never be let down.  
I begged and God heard,  
took my burdens from me.

God's angel defends the faithful,  
guards them on every side.  
Drink in the richness of God,  
enjoy the strength of the Lord.

Live in awe of God, you saints:  
you will want for nothing.  
Even if lions go hungry,  
those seeking God are fed.

**WISDOM 16:20–21, 26; 17:1a**

*You give us food to satisfy our deepest hunger.*

You hand-fed your people  
with food for angels,  
heaven's bread:  
ready to eat,  
richly satisfying,  
pleasing to every taste.

Eating this bread,  
they tasted your sweetness,  
the perfect meal  
for their deepest hunger and hope.

The children you love  
will learn this, Lord:

it is your word,  
not the bounty of fruits,  
that feeds and preserves  
your faithful ones.

Great are your judgments,  
beyond calculation!

### READING

#### *1 Corinthians 10:16 – 17*

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*God satisfies the thirsty, and fills the hungry with good things.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you are our living bread. In your love for us you give us the gift of your Body and your Blood. You feed us at your table and sustain us on our journey. Hear us now as we pray.

Jesus, living bread, your people die from lack of food:

~ *Send them food to satisfy their need.*

Jesus, living bread, your people walk in the darkness of discouragement:

~ *Let the bread of your word bring them light and strength.*

Jesus, living bread, your people feel the divisiveness of prejudice and discrimination:

~ *Open our hearts to welcome all people as brothers and sisters.*

Jesus, living bread, your people experience violence in their midst:

~ *Strengthen us to be advocates of nonviolence and ministers of justice and peace.*

Jesus, living bread, your people suffer the pain of joblessness:

~ *Help us to create a society in which all who seek employment may secure work with just remuneration.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of life, you gave us Jesus to be our food and drink. May we who share in the one bread

and drink of the one cup strive for unity of mind and heart in sharing whatever we have. May divisions cease, and may enemies seek reconciliation. May the stranger and the outcast be welcomed at our feast. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our living bread. Amen.

### BLESSING

May we be filled with longing for you,  
O Christ. *Amen.*

May we be filled with thankfulness. *Amen.*

May we be filled with the joy of those who  
share in your banquet. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

O God, feed us with the bread of your word.  
Let us eat and be filled at your table.  
May we taste your sweetness, O God.  
Fill us with the bread that gives life.

### DOXOLOGY

PSALM 63:1-9

*I feast at a rich table, my lips sing of your glory.*

God, my God, you I crave;  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my body aches for you  
like a dry and weary land.  
Let me gaze on you in your temple:  
a vision of strength and glory.

Your love is better than life,  
my speech is full of praise.  
I give you a lifetime of worship,  
my hands raised in your name.  
I feast at a rich table,  
my lips sing of your glory.

On my bed I lie awake,  
your memory fills the night.  
You have been my help,  
I rejoice beneath your wings.  
Yes, I cling to you,  
your right hand holds me fast.

JEREMIAH 31:10-14

*They shall be radiant over the goodness of God, over the grain, the wine.*

Nations! Hear God's word,  
tell your distant shores,  
"God gathers the scattered flock,  
guides Israel like a shepherd."

The Lord has saved Jacob's people,  
loosened the enemy's grip.

They reach Zion shouting for joy,  
thrilled with the goodness of God:

they see grain and oil and wine,  
new lambs and young calves;  
they thrive like a watered garden  
never to wither again.

Young girls break into dance,  
the young and old join in,  
for I turn their grief to laughter,  
ease their sorrow with joy.

I serve my priests rich food,  
I fill my people with plenty.

## READING

### *Isaiah 55:1 – 2*

Everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money  
for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which  
does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me,



and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Eat what is good, and delight yourselves in  
rich food.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O loving One, you have promised to be our  
God. We ask that you come to us in our need,  
as you came to our mothers and fathers in faith.  
Abraham and Sarah welcomed the stranger at  
their table and were blessed:

*~ Give us hearts that welcome to our table the  
refugee and the immigrant, the stranger and the  
outcast.*

You fed the people of Israel manna in the desert  
to sustain them on their way to the promised land:

*~ Help all those who are lost in the desert  
of doubt and disillusionment to find the bread of your  
word.*

You fed Elijah with scones and water when he  
was persecuted and wished to die:

*~ Sustain all those who suffer persecution and  
torture for your sake and the sake  
of your people.*

Jesus fed the five thousand who gathered to hear his word:

*~ May the sharing of our resources with our sisters and brothers provide for the material needs of the poor.*

The night before he died Jesus left us the gift of his Body and his Blood:

*~ May we truly recognize him in the breaking of the bread.*

We know that as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes:

*~ May we live in readiness for your coming and rejoice with you in the eternal banquet you have prepared for us.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of life, you gave us Jesus to be our food and drink. May we who share in the one bread and drink of the one cup strive for unity of mind and heart in sharing whatever we have. May divisions cease, and may enemies seek reconciliation. May the stranger and outcast be welcomed at our feast. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our living bread. Amen.

## BLESSING

May we be filled with longing for you,  
O Christ. *Amen.*

May we be filled with thankfulness. *Amen.*

May we be filled with the joy of those who  
share in your banquet. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

AS IN MORNING PRAYER

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 23

*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me  
and I in them.*

The Lord is my shepherd,  
I need nothing more.  
You give me rest in green meadows,  
setting me near calm waters,  
where you revive my spirit.

You guide me along sure paths,  
you are true to your name.  
Though I should walk in death's dark valley,  
I fear no evil with you by my side,  
your shepherd's staff to comfort me.

You spread a table before me  
as my foes look on.  
You soothe my head with oil;  
my cup is more than full.

Goodness and love will tend me  
every day of my life.  
I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
as long as I shall live.

### EPHESIANS 1:3-10

*Extravagant love, astounding mystery. You give yourself  
to us to be our food and drink.*

Bless God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who blessed us from heaven through Christ  
with every blessing of the Spirit.

Before laying the world's foundation,  
God chose us in Christ  
to live a pure and holy life.

God determined out of love  
to adopt us through Jesus Christ  
for the praise and glory of that grace  
granted us in the Beloved.

By Christ's blood we were redeemed,  
our sins forgiven  
through extravagant love.

With perfect wisdom and insight  
God freely displayed the mystery  
of what was always intended:  
a plan for the fullness of time  
to unite the entire universe through Christ.

## READING

### *Exodus 16:4 – 7a*

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord.”

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*The hand of the Lord feeds us. God answers all our needs.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Provident God, you supplied manna for your people when they cried out. You let the land flow with water when they suffered thirst. You who answer those who trust in you, hear us as we pray.

You have given us the earth to sow with seed:

*~ Help those who farm the land and those who enjoy the fruit of their harvests to reverence the sacredness of the earth.*

You have given us water to slake our thirst and to make the dry land fertile:

*~ Let us use our resources and technology to preserve clean waters for our descendants.*

You have asked us to set aside a sabbath to praise and honor you:

*~ Show us how to make our leisure holy.*

You have provided our daily bread:

*~ Give us hearts that recognize our abundance and share it with those who have less.*

You have asked us to journey together, sharing our lives and resources with one another:

*~ Make us of one mind and heart in following the way of Jesus.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of life, you gave us Jesus to be our food and drink. May we who share in the one bread and drink of the one cup strive for unity of mind and heart in sharing whatever we have. May divisions cease, and may enemies seek reconciliation. May the stranger and the outcast be welcomed at our feast. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our living bread. Amen.

### BLESSING AS IN MORNING PRAYER

# FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

O God, send us your Spirit,  
that the fire of love may burn within us.  
Lover of us all,  
make our hearts like yours.

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 68:2-12, 18-20

*We praise you, defender of those who are poor. Your love  
is boundless.*

God rises up,  
enemies of heaven scatter:  
they disperse like smoke,  
they melt like wax,  
they perish before God.

But the just are glad,  
they rejoice before God  
and celebrate with song.



Sing to God's name, play hymns!  
God rides the clouds. Send up a song!  
"Lord" is God's name. Rejoice!  
Father to the fatherless,  
defender of widows:  
God in the temple!

God gives the homeless a home,  
sets prisoners free to prosper,  
but the rebellious  
are banished to the wild.

God, when you led your people,  
when you marched in the desert,  
earth shook, heaven rained before you,  
Israel's God, the Lord of Sinai.

You gave us downpours  
to refresh the promised land  
where you nourish your flock.  
Gracious God, you strengthen the weak.

God speaks a word;  
a company of women  
spreads the good news.

With thousands and thousands  
of uncounted chariots  
the Lord came from Sinai  
to Zion's holy temple.

You ascended to the heights,  
you took captives  
and accepted tribute  
from those resisting you.

Bless the Lord each day  
who carries our burden,  
who keeps us alive.

**1 PETER 2:21-24**

*We love you, O Jesus Christ, for by your wounds we have  
been healed.*

Christ suffered for us  
leaving us an example,  
that we might walk  
in his footsteps.

He did nothing wrong;  
no false word  
ever passed his lips.

When they cursed him  
he returned no curse.  
Tortured, he made no threats  
but trusted in the perfect judge.

He carried our sins  
in his body  
to the cross,  
that we might die to sin  
and live for justice.  
When he was wounded,  
we were healed.

## READING

### *Romans 5:5b – 9a*

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Forever will I sing of your love and tender mercy, O God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O Christ, you have filled us with love for you and have drawn us to yourself. Hear us as we place our needs before you.

Open our hearts to receive your abundant gifts:

~ *Make our hearts like yours.*

Open our hearts to welcome as your beloved friends all our brothers and sisters:

~ *Take away from us all prejudice and hardness of heart.*

Open our hearts to feel the pain of your suffering people:

~ *Turn our good intentions into acts of justice and mercy.*

Open our hearts that we may speak for those who have no voice:

~ *Give us the courage to challenge those systems and behaviors that compromise the dignity of persons.*

Open our hearts to forgive those who have caused us injury:

~ *Let us grant pardon to others as God has granted pardon to us.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

Your love is beyond our understanding,  
O Christ. You hold us in loving regard and  
cherish our tears. You are like a mother who  
tenderly cradles her child against the pain  
and suffering of life. May your love poured  
out so freely upon us flow through us to  
all in need of mercy. Fill our hearts with your  
great love. Amen.

## BLESSING

May the love of Christ enfold us. *Amen.*

May the love of Christ transform us. *Amen.*

May the love of Christ empower us to love.  
*Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



## GREETING

O God, send us your Spirit,  
that the fire of love may burn within us.  
Lover of us all,  
make our hearts like yours.

## DOXOLOGY

## PSALM 103

*You, O God, are tender and caring, slow to anger, rich in love.*

My soul, bless the Lord,  
bless God's holy name!  
My soul, bless the Lord,  
hold dear all God's gifts!

Bless God, who forgives your sin  
and heals every illness,  
who snatches you from death  
and enfolds you with tender care,  
who fills your life with richness  
and gives you an eagle's strength.

The Lord, who works justice  
and defends the oppressed,  
teaches Moses and Israel  
divine ways and deeds.

The Lord is tender and caring,  
slow to anger, rich in love.  
God will not accuse us long,  
nor bring our sins to trial,  
nor exact from us in kind  
what our sins deserve.

As high as heaven above earth,  
so great is God's love for believers.  
As far as east from west,  
so God removes our sins.

As tender as father to child,  
so gentle is God to believers.  
The Lord knows how we are made,  
remembers we are dust.

Our days pass by like grass,  
our prime like a flower in bloom.  
A wind comes, the flower goes,  
empty now its place.

God's love is from all ages,  
God's justice beyond all time  
for believers of each generation:  
those who keep the covenant,  
who take care to live the law.

The Lord reigns from heaven,  
rules over all there is.  
Bless the Lord, you angels,  
strong and quick to obey,  
attending to God's word.

Bless the Lord, you powers,  
eager to serve God's will.  
Bless the Lord, you creatures,  
everywhere under God's rule.  
My soul, bless the Lord!

ISAIAH 66:10-14a

*I will comfort you as a mother nurses her child.*

Rejoice with Jerusalem!  
Be glad for her,  
all who love her.  
Share her great joy,  
all who know her sadness.

Now drink your fill  
from her comforting breast,  
enjoy her plentiful milk.

For this is what the Lord says:  
“Look! to her I extend  
peace like a river,  
the wealth of the nations  
like a stream in full flood.  
And you will drink!

I will carry you on my shoulders,  
cuddle you on my lap.  
I will comfort you  
as a mother nurses her child.

“Jerusalem will be your joy.  
Your heart will rejoice to see it.  
You will flourish like grass in spring.”



## READING

### *Hosea 2:14 – 16, 19 – 20*

Therefore, I will now allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. From there I will give her vineyards, and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she shall respond as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. On that day, says the Lord, you will call me, “My husband,” and no longer will you call me, “My Baal.” And I will take you for my wife forever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*In your love we are made whole, O Healer  
of our every ill.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O God, you are tender and merciful. You comfort us in our pain and are with us in our sorrow. Draw near to us as we pray for the suffering world:

~ *God of mercy, save your people.*

The cry of the hungry is heard in our land. Your people lack food and the means to provide for their families:

The cry of exploited and abused women is heard in our land. They have no one to speak for them:

The cry of the young is heard in our land. They seek understanding and persons to guide them:

The cry of your church is heard in our land. Heal its brokenness and bring it into unity of heart and mind:

The cry of people oppressed by political and economic systems is heard in our land. They long for justice to reign:

The cry of the critically ill and the dying is heard in our land. They wait for your coming:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Your love is beyond our understanding, O God. You hold us in loving regard and cherish our tears. You are like a mother who tenderly cradles her child against the pain and suffering of life. May your love poured out so freely upon us flow through us to all in need of mercy. Make our hearts like that of Jesus. Amen.

## BLESSING

May the love of God enfold us. *Amen.*

May the love of God transform us. *Amen.*

May the love of God empower us to love as  
Jesus loved. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

AS IN MORNING PRAYER

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 42

*The love of God sustains my praise by night, my prayer to  
the living God.*

As a deer craves running water,  
I thirst for you, my God;  
I thirst for God,  
the living God.  
When will I see your face?

Tears are my steady diet.  
Day and night I hear,  
“Where is your God?”

I cry my heart out,  
I remember better days:  
when I entered the house of God,  
I was caught in the joyful sound  
of pilgrims giving thanks.

Why are you sad, my heart?  
Why do you grieve?  
Wait for the Lord.  
I will yet praise God my savior.

My heart is sad.  
Even from Jordan and Hermon,  
from the peak of Mizar,  
I remember you.

There the deep roars to deep;  
your torrents crash over me.  
The love God summoned by day  
sustained my praise by night,  
my prayer to the living God.

I complain to God,  
who I thought was rock:  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why am I bent double  
under the weight of enemies?

“Their insults grind me to dust.  
Day and night they say,  
‘Where is your God?’”

Why are you sad, my heart?  
Why do you grieve?  
Wait for the Lord.  
I will yet praise God my savior.

### EPHESIANS 1:3-10

*Through extravagant love, O Christ, our sins have been forgiven.*

Bless God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who blessed us from heaven through Christ  
with every blessing of the Spirit.

Before laying the world's foundation,  
God chose us in Christ  
to live a pure and holy life.

God determined out of love  
to adopt us through Jesus Christ  
for the praise and glory of that grace  
granted us in the Beloved.

By Christ's blood we were redeemed,  
our sins forgiven  
through extravagant love.

With perfect wisdom and insight  
God freely displayed the mystery  
of what was always intended:  
a plan for the fullness of time  
to unite the entire universe through Christ.

## READING

### *1 John 4:7 – 12*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Let us love one another, because love is from God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, Catherine McAuley cherished devotion to your meek and humble heart. "It will soften many a sorrow and preserve us from many an imperfection." Stir up in us this night an ardent desire to love you more. Let us learn from Catherine who loved you so deeply.

“The loving heart of our Divine Spouse on earth is proposed to us by our holy Rule, as an object of our tenderest devotion and love”:

~ *Jesus, let us never forget your great love for us.*

“Surrounded as we are with dangers and temptations, where will we seek refuge, if not in the Heart of our dear Lord?”

~ *Jesus, let us come to you in times of turmoil and disillusionment.*

“Let us remember, if we wish to be genuine disciples of the Sacred Heart, we must learn those virtues which particularly characterize it”:

~ *Jesus, teach us meekness and humility.*

This devotion “gives rest to the soul, by imparting a peace and a security, a heavenly composure, which all the joys of earth can never give”:

~ *Jesus, let our lives be centered in you so that nothing will disturb us or diminish our dedication to your mission.*

In the ordinary events of daily life, “could we not beg of Jesus to consume our souls with His love” and to allow us “to drink, one day, of the torrent of His delights”:

~ *Jesus, draw us to yourself in this life and in eternity.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Your love is beyond our understanding,  
O Christ. You hold us in loving regard and  
cherish our tears. You are like a mother who  
tenderly cradles her child against the pain  
and suffering of life. May your love poured  
out so freely upon us flow through us to  
all in need of mercy. Fill our hearts with your  
great love. Amen.

### BLESSING AS IN MORNING PRAYER



# CHRIST THE KING



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

Glorious God of all the earth,  
come, reign in our hearts!  
All creation bows to you in worship.  
Let our song ring out: Jesus is Lord of heaven  
and earth.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 93

*O God, rise with might. Let justice reign over the  
nations.*

Lord, you reign with glory,  
draped in splendor, girt with power.  
The world stands firm,  
not to be shaken,  
for your throne, ageless God,  
has stood from of old.

Onward roll the waves, O God,  
onward like thunder,  
onward like fury.  
Thundering above the waters,  
high above ocean breakers,  
you, God, rise with might.

Your decrees stand unshaken;  
the beauty of holiness  
fills you for ever, Lord.

**DANIEL 3:56-88**

*Glory and praise to our God. Glory and  
honor forever.*

Bless God beyond the stars.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, heaven and earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, angels of God.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, highest heavens.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, waters above.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, spirits of God.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, sun and moon.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, stars of heaven.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, rainstorm and dew.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, gales and winds.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, fire and heat.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, frost and cold.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, dew and snow.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, ice and cold.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, frost and sleet.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, night and day.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, light and darkness.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, lightning and clouds.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, earth and sea.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, mountains and hills.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, trees and plants.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, fountains and springs.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, rivers and seas.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, fishes and whales.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, birds of the air.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, beasts of the earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God, children of earth.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, Israel.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, priests of God.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, servants of God.  
Give praise and glory.

Bless God, just and faithful souls.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, holy and humble hearts.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

Bless God beyond the stars.  
Give praise and glory.  
Bless God, heaven and earth.  
Give praise and glory for ever.

## READING

### *Revelation 1:5 – 8*

Grace to you and peace 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, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 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. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

## INTERCESSIONS

In you, O Christ, we have fullness of life. We long for your coming with justice for the poor and the suffering, and we pray for the flourishing of your reign on earth.

For leaders and legislators of all countries:

*~ May they foster the reign of justice.*

For military personnel and civil servants:

*~ May they have the courage to do what is right and honorable.*

For economists and business leaders:

*~ May they put the human needs of families and communities before the desire for profit.*

For journalists and other workers in the media:

*~ May they not glorify violence or promote the exploitation of persons.*

For musicians, artists, writers and poets:

*~ May their creations uplift the human spirit.*

For bishops, presbyters, members of religious congregations and all other religious leaders:

*~ May they foster a spirit of service and unity among God's people.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Let your justice and mercy reign over all the earth, O God of all peoples. You called all creation into being and formed all men and women in your image. May we always place you first in our hearts. Let us never seek to dominate or exploit our sisters or brothers or treat carelessly what has been given to us as gift. In everything that we do may we give glory to you. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### BLESSING

May God reign in our hearts. *Amen.*

May God reign in our nation. *Amen.*

May God reign throughout all the earth. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

Glorious God of all the earth,  
come, reign in our hearts!  
All creation bows to you in worship.  
Let our song ring out: Jesus is Lord of heaven  
and earth.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 148

*Praise the God of heaven and earth. Sing out  
a joyous song of praise!*

Praise the Lord!  
Across the heavens,  
from the heights,  
all you angels, heavenly beings,  
sing praise, sing praise!

Sun and moon, glittering stars,  
sing praise, sing praise.  
Highest heavens, rain clouds,  
sing praise, sing praise.

Praise God's name,  
whose word called you forth  
and fixed you in place for ever  
by eternal decree.

Let there be praise:  
from depths of the earth,  
from creatures of the deep.



Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
storms, winds,  
mountains, hills,  
fruit trees and cedars,  
wild beasts and tame,  
snakes and birds,

princes, judges,  
rulers, subjects,  
men, women,  
old and young,  
praise, praise the holy name,  
this name beyond all names.

God's splendor above the earth,  
above the heavens,  
gives strength to the nation,  
glory to the faithful,  
a people close to the Lord.  
Israel, let there be praise!

**REVELATION 11:17-18; 12:10b-12a**

*Now is salvation, the power and reign of God, and the  
authority of Christ. Citizens of heaven, rejoice!*

We thank you, Lord,  
God and ruler of all,  
who is and who was.  
You have claimed your power  
and begun to reign.

When the nations raged  
your anger stirred.  
Then was the moment  
to judge the dead,  
to reward your servants, the prophets,  
to honor your holy ones  
who honored your name,  
small and great alike.

Now is salvation,  
the power and reign of God;  
the Christ holds command.  
For the one who accused the saints  
day and night before God  
has now been driven out.

They won the battle  
by the blood of the Lamb,  
and by the power of their witness  
despite the threat of death.  
Citizens of heaven, rejoice.

## READING

### *Daniel 7:13 – 14*

As 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. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship were given 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.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*How great are the riches of the glory of this mystery,  
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O God, you reign over all nations and all peoples. All the earth reflects your beauty and bounty. Each culture and people show us your glory. May we learn about you through learning about each other:

~ *Help us, O God.*

May we learn from the peoples of Asia how to be still and silent in your presence:

May we learn from the peoples of Africa how to see your presence in nature:

May we learn from the peoples of Central and South America how to walk with those who are poor:

May we learn from the peoples of the Middle East to reverence sacred space and heritage:

May we learn from the peoples of Europe the traditions of our Christian heritage:

May we learn from the indigenous peoples  
of North America how to honor the earth:  
May we and all the peoples of the earth learn  
to live together in peace:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Let your justice and mercy reign over all  
the earth, O God of all peoples. You called all  
creation into being and formed all men and  
women in your image. May we always place  
you first in our hearts. Let us never seek to  
dominate or exploit our sisters or brothers or  
treat carelessly what has been given to us as gift.  
In everything we do may we give glory to you.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### BLESSING

May God reign in our hearts. *Amen.*

May God reign in our nation. *Amen.*

May God reign throughout all the earth. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



GREETING  
AS IN MORNING PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

PSALM 97

*Light will rain down on the just, joy on the  
loyal heart.*

The Lord rules: the earth is eager,  
joy touches distant lands.  
God is wrapped in thunder cloud,  
throned on justice, throned on right.

Fire marches out in front  
and burns up all resistance.  
Overhead, God's lightning flares,  
the earth shudders to see it.

Mountains melt down like wax  
before the Lord, the ruler of all.  
Overhead God's justice resounds,  
a glory all people can see.

Idolators are the fools,  
they brag of empty gods.  
You gods, be subject to the Lord!  
Zion hears, and is happy.  
The cities of Judah are joyful  
about your judgments, Lord.

You, Lord, you reach high  
in majesty above the earth,  
far higher than any god.  
Those who love the Lord hate evil;  
God shields their faithful lives  
and breaks the hold of the wicked.

Light will rain down on the just,  
joy on the loyal heart.  
Be joyous in the Lord God,  
you people of faith,  
praise God's holy name!

#### PHILIPPIANS 2:6–11

*Let every tongue exclaim to the glory of God, "Jesus Christ is Lord."*

Though in the form of God,  
Jesus did not claim  
equality with God  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
human like one of us.

Flesh and blood,  
he humbled himself,  
obeying to the death,  
death on a cross.  
For this very reason  
God lifted him high  
and gave him the name  
above all names.

So at the name of Jesus  
every knee will bend  
in heaven, on earth,  
and in the world below,  
and every tongue exclaim  
to the glory of God the Father,  
“Jesus Christ is Lord.”

## READING

### *Titus 2:11 – 14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Christ gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Jesus Christ, yesterday, today and forever!  
All glory and honor be yours now and forever!*

## INTERCESSIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to establish the reign of God's peace and justice throughout the earth. You gave your life that we might know the full extent of your love for us. Hear us now as we pray to you.

Jesus, we name you Prince of Peace:

*~ Grant peace to those areas of our world torn by civil war, violence and oppression.*

Jesus, we name you Light of the World:

*~ Lift the darkness of despair and hatred from the hearts of your people.*

Jesus, we name you Wisdom of God:

*~ Teach us how to drink deeply of the word of God present in the scriptures.*

Jesus, we name you Good Shepherd:

*~ Gather all who seek you into one fold and unite us as one community in love.*

Jesus, we name you the Way, the Truth, and the Life:

*~ Give us the courage to walk the path of discipleship.*



Jesus, we name you Savior:

*~ Fix our gaze upon your cross that we may learn  
the glory of your saving love.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER


### PRAYER

Let your justice and mercy reign over all the earth, O God of all peoples. You called all creation into being and formed all men and women in your image. May we always place you first in our hearts. Let us never seek to dominate or exploit our sisters or brothers, or treat carelessly what has been given to us as gift. In everything we do may we give glory to you. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## BLESSING AS IN MORNING PRAYER

# THE PSALTER

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Our lives  
Should be a  
continual act  
of praise  
and prayer.

M. G. McAuley

# SUNDAY



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 141

*Let my prayer rise like incense, my upraised hands like  
an evening sacrifice.*

Hurry, Lord! I call and call!  
Listen! I plead with you.  
Let my prayer rise like incense,  
my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.

Lord, guard my lips,  
watch my every word.  
Let me never speak evil  
or consider hateful deeds,  
let me never join the wicked  
to eat their lavish meals.

If the just correct me,  
I take their rebuke as kindness,  
but the unction of the wicked  
will never touch my head.  
I pray and pray  
against their hateful ways.

Let them be thrown  
against a rock of judgment,  
then they will know  
I spoke the truth.  
Then they will say,  
“Our bones lie broken upon the ground,  
scattered at the grave’s edge.”

Lord my God, I turn to you,  
in you I find safety.  
Do not strip me of life.  
Do not spring on me  
the traps of the wicked.  
Let evildoers get tangled  
in their own nets,  
but let me escape.

## READING

### *Romans 8:22 – 27*

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought,

but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!*

### INTERCESSIONS

All things come from you and through you, and therefore we have the courage to pray:

*~ Christ, answer our prayer!*

That the church may fully reflect your love and compassion in the world, we implore you:

That the leaders of all nations may be mindful of you as they fulfill their responsibilities, we implore you:

That the oppressed of the world may come to know your love through the ministry of the church, we implore you:

That we may always conduct ourselves as true temples of your Spirit, we implore you:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

The richness of your love is boundless, O God of mercy. Who can understand the depth of your love? You, our God, have done great things for us. We rejoice in our blessedness and ask that you stir up in our hearts the spirit of thanksgiving and generosity. Empower us to give freely what we have received as gift. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## BLESSING

## MORNING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 63:1-9

*Your love is better than life, my speech is full of praise.*

God, my God, you I crave;  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my body aches for you  
like a dry and weary land.  
Let me gaze on you in your temple:  
a vision of strength and glory.

Your love is better than life,  
my speech is full of praise.  
I give you a lifetime of worship,  
my hands raised in your name.  
I feast at a rich table,  
my lips sing of your glory.

On my bed I lie awake,  
your memory fills the night.  
You have been my help,  
I rejoice beneath your wings.  
Yes, I cling to you,  
your right hand holds me fast.

## READING

### *Revelation 7:9 – 12*

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,



“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*All praise and glory to you, God of all creation.*

## INTERCESSIONS

As morning breaks, we give thanks for the gift  
of this day, and we pray.

You offer the prospect of a fresh start each day:

*~ Help us to see the possibilities for renewing  
ourselves today.*

You touch creation with the gentle light of dawn:

*~ Bring the healing light of insight into the darkness  
of our lives.*

You fill the air with expectation, with mystery:

*~ Teach us to delight in the anticipation  
of each day's surprises.*

You cover the earth with morning dew:

*~ Wrap us in the blanket of your nurturing love.*

You shroud the horizon in a silent mist:

*~ Lead our hearts to quiet contemplation  
of your goodness.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of all creation, at the dawning of this new day fill us with wonder and gratitude for the abundance of your blessings. We lift our hearts and voices to praise you for the beauty of the earth, the harvests of field and orchard. Give us hearts that long to share our abundance with those who suffer from want and hopelessness. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 27

*The Lord is my saving light. Deep within me a voice says, "Look for the face of God."*

The Lord is my saving light;  
whom should I fear?  
God is my fortress;  
what should I dread?

When the violent come at me  
to eat me alive,  
a mob eager to kill —  
they waver, they collapse.

Should battalions lay siege,  
I will not fear;  
should war rage against me,  
even then I will trust.

One thing I ask the Lord,  
one thing I seek:  
to live in the house of God  
every day of my life,  
caught up in God's beauty,  
at prayer in his temple.

The Lord will hide me there,  
hide my life from attack:  
a sheltering tent above me,  
a firm rock below.

I am now beyond reach  
of those who besiege me.  
In his temple I will offer  
a joyful sacrifice,  
I will play and sing to God.

O God, listen to me;  
be gracious, answer me.  
Deep within me a voice says,  
“Look for the face of God!”

So I look for your face,  
I beg you not to hide.  
Do not shut me out in anger,  
help me instead.

Do not abandon or desert me,  
my savior, my God.  
If my parents rejected me,  
still God would take me in.

Teach me how to live,  
lead me on the right road  
away from my enemies.  
Do not leave me to their malice;  
liars breathing violence  
rise to swear against me.

I know I will see  
how good God is  
while I am still alive.  
Trust in the Lord. Be strong.  
Be brave. Trust in the Lord.

## READING

### *Colossians 1:24 – 27*

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given

to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to the saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Not knowing what to do I lift my eyes to you,  
O saving Lord.*

### INTERCESSIONS

As this day fades into darkness, we call to the One who enlightens the depths of our being, as we pray.

Christ Jesus, we praise you for the transforming power of your love:

*~ Remove prejudice and ignorance from  
our hearts.*

Christ Jesus, we proclaim your glory as the one crucified and raised up:

*~ Help us to meet and make peace with our crosses,  
to learn and grow from them.*

Christ Jesus, we sing of your tenderness and mercy:

*~ Help us to be tender and merciful as  
you were.*

Christ Jesus, we acknowledge you as the bearer of truth in love:

*~ Let us be truth-seekers and truth-speakers in all we say and do.*

Christ Jesus, we know you as friend:

*~ May we befriend all in need, especially the poor, the oppressed, the sick and the dying.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Christ our light, illumine our minds that we may see you in our sisters and brothers. Let the darkness of doubt and discouragement never keep us from the good you would have us do. You send us to be light to your people. Let us shine forth as witnesses to your love. We ask this with confidence in your faithfulness. Amen.

### BLESSING

# MONDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 5

*O God, I pray to you; my prayer rises with  
the sun.*

Hear my words, my groans,  
my cries for help,  
O God my king.  
I pray to you, Lord,  
my prayer rises with the sun.  
At dawn I plead my case and wait.

You never welcome evil, God,  
never let it stay.  
You hate arrogance  
and abhor scoundrels,  
you detest violence  
and destroy the traitor.

But by your great mercy  
I enter your house  
and bend low in awe  
within your holy temple.

In the face of my enemies  
clear the way,  
bring me your justice.

Their charges are groundless,  
they breathe destruction;  
their tongues are smooth,  
their throat an open grave.

God, pronounce them guilty,  
catch them in their own plots,  
expel them for their sins;  
they have betrayed you.

But let those who trust you  
be glad and celebrate for ever.  
Protect those who love your name,  
then they will delight in you.

For you bless the just, O God,  
your grace surrounds them like a shield.

## READING

### *Ephesians 4:1b – 6*

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called



to the one hope of your calling, one Lord,  
one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of  
all, who is above all and through all and in all.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*May it truly be said, there is in us but one heart and one  
soul in God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

At the dawn of this new day we lift our voices  
to you, God of all nations, as we pray.

You are the God of industrialized nations and  
developing countries:

~ *Teach us to praise you with one voice.*

You are the God of coastlands and heartlands:

~ *Give us knowledge of your wondrous love.*

You are the God of mountains and lowlands:

~ *Help us to see your merciful deeds.*

You are the God of north and south, of east  
and west:

~ *Move us to shout for joy because we are your  
children.*

You are the God of peoples with diverse customs  
and languages:

~ *Help us to love one another as brothers and sisters.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations, thank you for your protection through the night. At our rising, let us praise you. In our waking, let us serve you. Wherever we may go today, let our hearts be centered in you for whom alone we go forward or stay back. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 104:24-35

*Feed us with the bread of your word, O God.*

God, how fertile your genius!  
You shape each thing,  
you fill the world  
with what you do.

I watch the sea, wide and deep,  
filled with fish, large and small,  
with ships that ply their trade,  
and your own toy, Leviathan.

All look to you for food  
when they hunger;  
you provide it and they feed.  
You open your hand, they feast;  
you turn away, they fear.

You steal their breath,  
they drop back into dust.  
Breathe into them, they rise;  
the face of the earth comes alive!

Let God's glory endure  
and the Lord delight in creating.  
One look from God, earth quivers;  
one touch, and mountains erupt.

I will sing to my God,  
make music for the Lord  
as long as I live.  
Let my song give joy to God  
who is a joy to me.  
Rid the world of sinners,  
rid it of evil!

I will bless you, Lord!  
Hallelujah!

## READING

### *Isaiah 55:1 – 3a, 10 – 11*

Everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which  
is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
For as the rain and the snow come down  
from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered  
the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from  
my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Jesus, implant your love in my heart. It is all  
I desire in this world or in the next.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God calls us to life in abundance. Let us  
praise and thank God, and let us make known  
our needs:

*~ Jesus our way, our truth and our life, hear and  
answer our prayer.*

For all who hold and teach the Catholic faith,  
that they may never grow weary of proclaiming  
the value of all life, let us pray:

For the leaders of world government, that they  
may consciously choose life-giving solutions  
to societal problems, let us pray:

For those who are sick, that they may find  
healing of body and spirit, and for all who care  
for them, that they may be supported, let us pray:

For parents and all who serve in the role of  
parents, that they may see God's good creation  
in the gift of children, let us pray:

For all who mourn the loss of a loved one, that  
they may find comfort in the certainty of the  
resurrection, let us pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread that gives life. You fed the multitude in the desert when they hungered. Feed us now with the bread that sustains our hope. As you supply our need, let us be bread for your people. We ask this in your name. Amen.

### BLESSING

# TUESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 24

*God will bless them, their Savior will  
bring justice.*

God owns this planet  
and all its riches.  
The earth and every creature  
belong to God.

God set the land on top of the seas  
and anchored it in the deep.

Who is fit to climb God's mountain  
and stand in his holy place?

Whoever has integrity:  
not chasing shadows,  
not living lies.

God will bless them,  
their savior will bring justice.  
These people long to see the Lord,  
they seek the face of Jacob's God.

Stretch toward heaven, you gates,  
open high and wide.  
Let the glorious sovereign enter.

Who is this splendid ruler?  
The Lord of power and might,  
the conqueror of chaos.

Stretch toward heaven, you gates,  
open high and wide.  
Let the glorious sovereign enter.

Who is this splendid ruler?  
The Lord of heaven's might,  
this splendid ruler is God.

## READING

### *Romans 13:11b – 14*

It is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.



## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Let us follow the example of Jesus who testified on all occasions a tender love for the poor.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, maker of the dawn, we ask for your protection this day.

You are gentle and kind, merciful to those in need:

*~ Send the light of your abundant love to those who are lonely and suffering.*

You desire freedom for the oppressed:

*~ Shower the earth with justice for those who are imprisoned by hate and fear.*

You bring healing to the wounded:

*~ Wrap our doubts and failures in the sweet dew of your forgiveness.*

You bring freedom to the captive:

*~ Break the chains of those bound by their addictions.*

You comfort those who mourn:

*~ Lift the mist of sorrow from our hearts that we may know joy.*

You bring peace to those in conflict:

*~ Touch our confusion with quiet clarity.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

God of justice and mercy, you are our saving God. Come with your power to save, and free those held captive by oppression. Use us as your instruments of mercy and peace. Give us the courage to challenge all that enslaves the human spirit. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 16

*I am sure God is here, right beside me.*

Protect me, God,  
I turn to you for help.  
I profess, “You are my Lord,  
my greatest good.”

I once put faith in false gods,  
the idols of the land.  
Now I make no offering to them,  
nor invoke their names.  
Those who chase after them  
add grief upon grief.

Lord, you measure out my portion,  
the shape of my future;  
you mark off the best place for me  
to enjoy my inheritance.

I bless God who teaches me,  
who schools my heart even at night.  
I am sure God is here,  
right beside me.  
I cannot be shaken.

So my heart rejoices,  
my body thrills with life,  
my whole being rests secure.

You will not abandon me to Sheol,  
nor send your faithful one to death.  
You show me the road to life:  
boundless joy at your side for ever!

## READING

### *1 John 4:7 – 11*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent

his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Endless is your love for me. Give me voice to sing your praise.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We end this day, as always, in the company of Jesus, our friend. In his presence, we pray.

Teacher of wisdom:

*~ Open our ears, that we may hear your voice and be instruments of your plan.*

Gardener of love:

*~ Free our hearts from the weeds of bitterness and anger.*

Light of peace:

*~ Let us see beyond superficial differences and recognize one another as sisters and brothers.*

Reliever of oppression:

*~ Help us to recognize the dignity of all who are marginalized and lead us to work for justice.*

Comforter of those who suffer:

*~ Show us how to be with those in pain, especially abused women and children.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, you walked with your disciples on the way to Emmaus and revealed your presence in the breaking of the bread. Walk with us on our journey. Open us to see the revelation of your presence in the daily events of our lives. You who promised to be with us always be faithful to your word. We ask this in your name. Amen.

### BLESSING

# WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 47

*All you peoples, clap your hands. Sing out your praise to God.*

All peoples, clap your hands,  
shout your joy to God.  
For God Most High is awesome,  
great king of all the earth.

The One who conquers peoples  
and sets them at our feet  
chooses for beloved Jacob  
a land to be our pride.

God ascends the mountain  
to cheers and trumpet blasts.  
Sing out your praise to God,  
to the king, sing out your praise.

For God rules the earth;  
sing praise with all your skill.  
God rules over nations,  
high on the sacred throne.

Foreign rulers join  
the people of Abraham's God;  
all the powers on earth  
belong to God on high.

## READING

*Tobit 4:15a, 16a, 19a*

What you hate, do not do to anyone. Give some of your food to the hungry, and some of your clothing to the naked. At all times bless God, and ask that your ways may be made straight and that all your paths and plans may prosper.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*O God, you who feed the hungry, let me be bread for your people.*

## INTERCESSIONS

With the coming of this day, generous God, we reflect on your call to service. We remember those who commit themselves to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and we pray:

*~ Bless them today, generous God!*

For those who quietly provide services necessary for the common good: public utility workers, secretaries, those who labor in food preparation and housekeeping, we pray:

For those engaged in dangerous work to assure our safety: fire fighters, police, paramedics, we pray:

For those who lead others to truth: educators, theologians, poets, musicians, artists, we pray:

For those charged with protecting the common good and promoting justice: legislators, national leaders, delegates to the United Nations, we pray:

For Sisters of Mercy, our associates and colleagues in ministry, and for all those you are calling to Mercy life, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, you have given us living bread that we may be nourished and strengthened. As you provided food for those who gathered upon the hillside to hear your word, feed your people today with the bread that brings life. Do not forget those who love you. We ask this in your name. Amen.

### BLESSING



## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 32

*Our God is merciful and forgiving.*

Happy the pardoned,  
whose sin is canceled,  
in whom God finds  
no evil, no deceit.

While I hid my sin,  
my bones grew weak  
from endless groaning.

Day and night,  
under the weight of your hand,  
my strength withered  
as in a summer drought.

Then I stopped hiding my sin  
and spoke out,  
“God, I confess my wrong.”  
And you pardoned me.

No wonder the faithful  
pray to you in danger!  
Even a sudden flood  
will never touch them.

You, my shelter,  
you save me from ruin.  
You encircle me  
with songs of freedom.

“I show you the path to walk.  
As your teacher,  
I watch out for you.

“Do not be a stubborn mule,  
needing bridle and bit  
to be tamed.”  
Evil brings grief;  
trusting in God brings love.

Rejoice in the Lord.  
Be glad and sing,  
you faithful and just.

## READING

### *James 1:19b, 21b, 22 – 25*

Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going

away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act — they will be blessed in their doing.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*For your word rooted in my heart, I give you praise, O God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Confident that God calls us together to celebrate our faith in actions and words, we pray.

For God's people, the church:

*~ May the light of our faith brighten the darkness of the world.*

For those entrusted with power and authority:

*~ May they use it to promote justice and peace for those whom they serve.*

For our community and family:

*~ May we study the word of God and allow it to affect the way we deal with others.*

For the faithful departed:

*~ May they receive the peace of Christ in their heavenly home.*

For those you are calling to religious life:

*~ May they respond generously to your invitation.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Spirit of God, you make your home within us. Help us to hear your voice speaking within us, calling us to deeper union with you. Renew our hearts and transform our actions that we may proclaim to the world: God is alive! God's love is everlasting! This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

# THURSDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 100

*Gentle Shepherd, guide us in the way of peace.*

Shout joy to the Lord, all earth,  
serve the Lord with gladness,  
enter God's presence with joy!

Know that the Lord is God,  
our maker to whom we belong,  
our shepherd, and we the flock.

Enter the temple gates,  
the courtyard with thanks and praise;  
give thanks and bless God's name.

Indeed the Lord is good!  
God's love is for ever,  
faithful from age to age.

### READING

#### *Isaiah 66:1 – 2*

Thus says the Lord:  
Heaven is my throne and the earth is  
my footstool;

what is the house that you would build for me,  
and what is my resting place?  
All these things my hand has made,  
and so all these things are mine.  
But this is the one to whom I will look,  
to the humble and contrite in spirit,  
who trembles at my word.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Let me be your resting place, O God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

At the dawn of this day we praise you, God, for  
the resources of our earth. We ask for grateful  
hearts, as we pray:

*~ We thank you, God of life.*

For the light of dawn, awakening us to service:  
For the refreshment of water, cleansing us of sin:  
For the sounds of morning, reminding us of  
neighbors and community:  
For fresh air, filling our bodies with renewed  
energy:  
For this new day, offering new opportunities  
for loving and living:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

God, your love is everlasting! You shower us with blessings and provide for us in our need. Listen to our prayer and bring all creation into oneness. Let us reverence earth as our home, and each other as sister or brother. Let us be blessed with peace within and without. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 30

*Celebrate, all you saints, praise this awesome God, whose mercy lasts a lifetime.*

I give you high praise,  
for you, Lord, raised me up  
above my gloating enemy.  
Lord, how I begged you,  
and you, God, healed me.  
You pulled me from the pit,  
brought me back from Sheol.

Celebrate, all you saints,  
praise this awesome God,  
whose anger passes quickly,  
whose mercy lasts a lifetime —  
as laughter fills a day  
after one brief night of tears.

When all was going well,  
I thought I could never fall;  
with God's powerful blessing,  
I would stand like a mountain!  
Then you hid your face;  
I shook with fear!

I cried out, "Lord, Lord!"  
I begged, I pleaded:  
"What good is my blood to you?  
Why push me down the pit?  
Can dead bones praise you,  
recount your unbroken love?  
Listen to me, O God,  
turn and help me now."

You changed my anguish  
into this joyful dance,  
pulled off my sackcloth,  
gave me bright new robes,  
that my life might sing your glory,  
never silent in your praise.  
For ever I will thank you,  
O Lord my God.



## READING

### *1 Peter 1:6 – 9*

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer and grant our petitions through your Son Jesus Christ.

For all of us who are the church:

~ *May we preach and teach the gospel with courage.*

For those in the world who do not know God:

~ *May our efforts to evangelize be fruitful.*

For all strangers in our land:

*~ May they be accepted as pilgrims enroute to the promised land of eternal life with God.*

For the refugees and the immigrants of the world:

*May they be comforted by their sisters and brothers in Christ.*

For all whose lives are in a state of transition on their journey of faith:

*~ May they recognize God as their guide.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of tender mercy, you hear the cries of those who suffer. Send us that spirit of refreshment which will gladden our spirits and calm our fears. When we lack the strength to continue in deeds of righteousness, renew us with your love. When we feel that we are alone and lost, be our companion and guide. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

# FRIDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 51

*Creator God, reshape my heart. A changed heart you welcome.*

Have mercy, tender God,  
forget that I defied you.  
Wash away my sin,  
cleans me from my guilt.

I know my evil well,  
it stares me in the face,  
evil done to you alone  
before your very eyes.

How right your condemnation!  
Your verdict clearly just.  
You see me for what I am,  
a sinner before my birth.

You love those centered in truth;  
teach me your hidden wisdom.  
Wash me with fresh water,  
wash me bright as snow.

Fill me with happy songs,  
let the bones you bruised now dance.  
Shut your eyes to my sin,  
make my guilt disappear.

Creator, reshape my heart,  
God, steady my spirit.  
Do not cast me aside  
stripped of your holy spirit.

Save me, bring back my joy,  
support me, strengthen my will.  
Then I will teach your way  
and sinners will turn to you.

Help me, stop my tears,  
and I will sing your goodness.  
Lord, give me words  
and I will shout your praise.

When I offer a holocaust,  
the gift does not please you.  
So I offer my shattered spirit;  
a changed heart you welcome.

In your love make Zion lovely,  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then sacrifice will please you,  
young bulls upon your altar.

## READING

### *Ephesians 4:29 – 32*

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Let no breach of charity ever occur among us. Let the sun never go down on our anger.*

## INTERCESSIONS

As a new day begins we ask you, God, that we may be responsive in faith to your mercy. We commit ourselves to follow Christ in compassion for suffering people, and we pray:

~ *God, send your mercy.*

For persons who are poor, whose basic needs go unfulfilled, we pray:

For those who are suffering from addiction to drugs, alcohol, or possessions, we pray:

For those who are suffering from incurable or terminal diseases, we pray:

For those who are homeless and who yearn for permanent shelter, we pray:

For those who are lonely, who pass their days longing for companionship, we pray:

For those who are estranged from family or community, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of compassion, look with tenderness upon our frailty. We love you but fail to live fully the demands of that love. Help us to begin again when we have grown weary of doing good. Bind up our broken spirits, and make us whole through the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 46

*Come! See the wonders God does across  
the earth!*

Our sure defense,  
our shelter and help in trouble,  
God never stands far off.

So we stand unshaken  
when solid earth cracks  
and volcanoes slide into the sea,  
when breakers rage  
and mountains tremble in the swell.

The Lord of cosmic power,  
Jacob's God, will shield us.

A river delights the city of God,  
home of the Holy One Most High.  
With God there, the city stands;  
God defends it under attack.  
Nations rage, empires fall.  
God speaks, earth melts.

The Lord of cosmic power,  
Jacob's God, will shield us.

Come! See the wonders  
God does across the earth:  
everywhere stopping wars,  
smashing, crushing, burning  
all the weapons of war.

An end to your fighting!  
Acknowledge me as God,  
high over nations, high over earth.

The Lord of cosmic power,  
Jacob's God, will shield us.

## READING

### *Romans 15:1 – 6*

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Let us be one heart, one voice, in singing your praise, O God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

With mercy and compassion, God cares deeply for those in need. Let us speak confidently of our needs.

For those who suffer persecution and discrimination:

*~ May they receive the grace of patient endurance and public support.*

For those who struggle to live their gospel call:

*~ May they find courage in the face of contrary values.*

For those who minister to their sisters and brothers in the human community:

*~ May they be responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable.*

For all who face serious illness:

*~ May they know God's comfort and peace.*

For our families, friends, communities and all people of God:

*~ May they be blessed with spiritual renewal.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

Merciful God, the earth is charged with the wonders of your glory. You are shield and shelter for those who call to you in their need. Be with us as we work to build your reign upon earth. Be our shield against persecution, our shelter in times of weariness. Wrap those who are in pain in the embrace of your mercy. This we ask in the name of Jesus who died that we might live. Amen.

## BLESSING

# SATURDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 119:169–176

*May I live to praise you, upheld by your word.*

I rejoice before you, Lord,  
let your word bring me light.  
Hear my prayer,  
rescue me as you promised.

May praise be on my lips,  
because you taught me your rule.  
May praise be on my tongue,  
because your commands are just.

Reach out and lead me,  
I choose your path.  
I long to be safe, Lord,  
your law is my delight.

May I live to praise you,  
upheld by your word.

If I stray like a lost sheep,  
seek out your servant  
for I never forget your laws.

## READING

### *2 Peter 1:10 – 11*

Brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble. For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Draw me to yourself, O God of mercy, and I shall live.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Challenging God, refreshed by our rest we commit ourselves once again to walk the path of life.

You invite us to walk with you:

~ *Deepen our faith.*

You call us to mirror your Spirit:

~ *Inflame our hearts with love.*

You ask us to attend to your word:

~ *Open our ears.*

You prod us to tear down and to build up:

~ *Strengthen our conviction.*

You challenge us to abandon sinfulness:

~ *Purify our hearts.*

You promise us unending life:

~ *Be our hope.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of Miriam and Moses, you led your people through the desert. You guided them by day and night and made with them your covenant of love. Let us walk with you in faithfulness, following the way shown to us by Jesus and the prophets. Be with us on our journey, O God of mercy. Amen.

### BLESSING

# SUNDAY



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 141

*Let my prayer rise like incense, my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.*

Hurry, Lord! I call and call!  
Listen! I plead with you.  
Let my prayer rise like incense,  
my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.

Lord, guard my lips,  
watch my every word.  
Let me never speak evil  
or consider hateful deeds,  
let me never join the wicked  
to eat their lavish meals.

If the just correct me,  
I take their rebuke as kindness,  
but the unction of the wicked  
will never touch my head.  
I pray and pray  
against their hateful ways.

Let them be thrown  
against a rock of judgment,  
then they will know  
I spoke the truth.  
Then they will say,  
“Our bones lie broken upon the ground,  
scattered at the grave’s edge.”

Lord my God, I turn to you,  
in you I find safety.  
Do not strip me of life.  
Do not spring on me  
the traps of the wicked.  
Let evildoers get tangled  
in their own nets,  
but let me escape.

## READING

### *Colossians 1:3 – 6*

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*May the seed of your word in us bud forth in joy, O faithful God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

As members of the body of Christ, let us offer our petitions to God, asking Christ to intercede for us:

~ *Christ, our brother, hear our prayer!*

That all who teach and preach the word of God will be welcomed and sustained by the family of God, let us pray:

That religious and public servants inspired by Christ's love will seek ways to foster peace and justice in all lands, let us pray:

That the poor, homeless, sick and oppressed will find relief through the compassion of those committed to Christ's message of love, let us pray:

That members of this faith community will carry out with apostolic zeal our mission of proclaiming the Good News of Christ's redeeming love, let us pray:

That the prophets in our midst will speak the truth in love, let us pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER



## PRAYER

You have called us, God, to be members of your body. Grateful for this sacred vocation, we pray to be your hands and feet, your voice and your heart in our world. Through our ministry, may your people know that you move among them today, hearing their concerns and healing their sorrow. We pray this in the name of Jesus who came among us to show us the way. Amen.

## BLESSING

## MORNING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 118

*My strength, my song is the Lord, who has become my Savior.*

Give thanks, the Lord is good,  
God's love is for ever!  
Now let Israel say,  
"God's love is for ever!"

Let the house of Aaron say,  
"God's love is for ever!"  
Let all who revere the Lord say,  
"God's love is for ever!"

In distress I called to the Lord,  
who answered and set me free.  
The Lord is with me, I fear not.  
What can they do to me?  
The Lord my help is with me,  
I can face my foes.

Better to trust in the Lord  
than rely on human help.  
Better to trust in the Lord  
than rely on generous hearts.

The nations surrounded me;  
in God's name, I will crush them!  
Surrounded me completely;  
in God's name, I will crush them!  
Surrounded me like bees,  
blazed like brushwood fire;  
in God's name, I will crush them!

I was pushed to falling,  
but the Lord gave me help.  
My strength, my song is the Lord,  
who has become my savior.

Glad songs of victory sound  
within the tents of the just.  
With right hand raised high,  
the Lord strikes with force.

I shall not die but live  
to tell the Lord's great deeds.  
The Lord punished me severely,  
but did not let me die.

Open the gates of justice,  
let me praise God within them.  
This is the Lord's own gate,  
only the just will enter.  
I thank you for you answered me,  
and you became my savior.

The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
how wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord made,  
let us rejoice and be glad.  
Lord, give us the victory!  
Lord, grant us success!

Blest is the one who comes,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the Lord's house.  
The Lord God is our light:  
adorn the altar with branches.

I will thank you, my God,  
I will praise you highly.  
Give thanks, the Lord is good,  
God's love is for ever!

## READING

### *Ezekiel 36:25 – 27, 28b*

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Grant to me a new heart and a new spirit, that  
I may celebrate your love.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Creator God, on the seventh day you rested, pausing to enjoy the wonderful works of your hand. Today we pause, cherishing this sabbath, and offering you the praise and desires of our hearts:

*~ Creator God, hear our prayer!*

For all with whom we work, minister or collaborate, that they may be renewed by your creative energy, we pray:

For all who struggle to understand and live the call to be good stewards of the planet Earth, we pray:

For all who labor for daily existence, especially those who are physically or emotionally burdened, we pray:

For all who do not experience the joy of God's love, or the faithfulness of family and friends, we pray:

For those searching for meaningful work, and for those who are unable to work because of injury, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of love and compassion, your love is like the sun which banishes the darkness. Each day the morning light reminds us of your faithfulness and mercy. This day let us join our hearts with those of all our brothers and sisters in praising your goodness. You who are our saving God, act once more to free your people from the slavery of injustice, oppression, poverty and prejudice. We ask this with confidence in your promises. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 115

*The Lord has remembered us and will bless us.*

Not to us, Lord, not to us,  
but to your name give glory,  
because of your love,  
because of your truth.

Why do the nations say,  
“Where is their God?”  
Our God is in the heavens  
and answers to no one.

Their gods are crafted by hand,  
mere silver and gold,  
with mouths that are mute  
and eyes that are blind,  
with ears that are deaf  
and noses that cannot smell.

Their hands cannot feel,  
their feet cannot walk,  
their throats are silent.  
Their makers, their worshipers  
will be just like them.

Let Israel trust God,  
their help and shield.  
Let the house of Aaron trust God,  
their help and shield.  
Let all believers trust God,  
their help and shield.

The Lord has remembered us  
and will bless us,  
will bless the house of Israel,  
will bless the house of Aaron.  
God will bless all believers,  
the small and the great.

May God bless you more and more,  
bless all your children.  
May you truly be blessed  
by the maker of heaven and earth.

To the Lord belong the heavens,  
to us the earth below!  
The dead sing no Hallelujah,  
nor do those in the silent ground.  
But we will bless you, Lord,  
now and for ever.

Hallelujah!

## READING

### *2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 14*

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose God called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*The Mighty One has done great things for me.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of love, hear our prayers this evening.  
May our petitions rise like incense before you;  
may our hearts burn like an evening fire.

For all ministers in the church:

*~ May they be willing to speak the truth of your gospel, we pray.*

For all legislators:

*~ May they make education, health care, housing and the needs of the young priorities in their lawmaking, we pray.*



For all those working in human services:

~ *May they serve with justice and compassion, we pray.*

For all those who have an abundance of the world's resources:

~ *May they share generously with the poor, we pray.*

For ourselves:

~ *May we grow in love of you and each other through personal and communal prayer, we pray.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

You, O God, have done great things for us. You give us all that we need for life, and you sustain us on the path of Mercy to which you have called us. May we always perceive your guiding hand; may we welcome and encourage the companions you have given us for our journey. In the end, may we be welcomed into your embrace by all the members of our families and communities who have gone before us. We ask this in the name of Jesus who walks with us. Amen.

### BLESSING

# MONDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 42

*The love God summoned by day sustained my praise by night, my prayer to the living God.*

As a deer craves running water,  
I thirst for you, my God;  
I thirst for God,  
the living God.  
When will I see your face?

Tears are my steady diet.  
Day and night I hear,  
“Where is your God?”

I cry my heart out,  
I remember better days:  
when I entered the house of God,  
I was caught in the joyful sound  
of pilgrims giving thanks.

Why are you sad, my heart?  
Why do you grieve?  
Wait for the Lord.  
I will yet praise God my savior.

My heart is sad.  
Even from Jordan and Hermon,  
from the peak of Mizar,  
I remember you.

There the deep roars to deep;  
your torrents crash over me.  
The love God summoned by day  
sustained my praise by night,  
my prayer to the living God.

I complain to God,  
who I thought was rock:  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why am I bent double  
under the weight of enemies?

“Their insults grind me to dust.  
Day and night they say,  
‘Where is your God?’”

Why are you sad, my heart?  
Why do you grieve?  
Wait for the Lord.  
I will yet praise God my savior.

## READING

### *Jeremiah 15:15 – 16*

O Lord, remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on  
my persecutors.  
In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.  
Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy and the  
delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name, O Lord,  
God of hosts.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Your words are the joy and happiness of  
my heart.*

## INTERCESSIONS

In the beginning, God created the heavens and  
the earth. Thankful for the beauty and goodness  
of all creation, we pray:

~ *Good and loving God, hear our prayer!*

For all who struggle for the basic necessities  
of life—nourishing food, pure water, fresh air  
and adequate housing, we pray:

For all who choose to live simply in order to  
share the earth's resources with others, we pray:

For all who work farms, cultivate gardens and preserve forests, we pray:

For all who suffer from storms, earthquakes and other natural disasters, we pray:

For all who seek better ways to care for the earth and to harness its energies for the good of the human family, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

With longing hearts we cry out to you, God of all life. Let mercy fall like gentle rain upon your suffering poor. Let your healing waters bathe the wounds of those broken by disease, rejection or self-hatred. The waters of our baptism made us one with Christ Jesus. May our lives witness the love made flesh in him. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 119:33-50

*Guide me along your path, a way of delight.*

God, teach me your ways  
and I will follow them closely.  
Help me understand your will,  
that I may cherish your law.

Guide me along your path,  
a way of delight.  
Open my heart to your laws  
and not to riches.

Turn my eyes from the lure of evil,  
let me live your truth.  
Keep your promise  
to one who reveres you.

Spare me the shame I fear.  
How good your commands!  
See, I want what is right,  
let your justice give me life.

Touch me with your love, O Lord,  
save me as you promised.  
I defy those who taunt me,  
for I trust your word.

Let me speak the whole truth,  
for I await your justice.  
I keep your word,  
now and always.

I go about openly  
pursuing your law.  
I would speak your word to kings,  
and not be ashamed.

For I love your ways  
and delight in following them.  
I revere your commands  
and attend to them.

Remember what you promised me,  
I wait in hope.  
In sorrow, this is my comfort:  
your life-giving word.

## READING

### *Isaiah 43:9 – 12*

Let all the nations gather together,  
and let the peoples assemble.  
Who among them declared this,  
and foretold to us the former things?  
Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,  
and let them hear and say, “It is true.”  
You are my witnesses,  
and my servant whom I have chosen,

so that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am God.  
Before me no god was formed,  
nor shall there be any after me.  
I, I am the Lord,  
and besides me there is no savior.  
I declared and saved and proclaimed,  
when there was no strange god among you;  
and you are my witnesses.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Truly your word is at work in us. We sing  
with joy.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, you taught us to pray; listen to our  
prayers this evening:

*~ Jesus, we place our trust in you.*

For elected officials, that they use their power  
and authority for the common good, we pray:

For those who are sick, that they experience  
your healing presence and return to full health,  
we pray:

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones,  
that they find comfort and support in their time  
of grief, we pray:



For our world community called to responsibility for planet Earth, that we collaborate in caring stewardship, we pray:

For those discerning a call to religious life and priesthood, that they be open to the inspiration of the Spirit, we pray:

For all members of the Institute, that they will continue to be blessed with your presence in their lives, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

You have called us, O God, to unite us to yourself in the person of your Son, Jesus. Through our reflections on his life, may we come to know his spirit and to reflect it in our words and actions. Thus will all people know of your constant love for us. We make this prayer in a spirit of gratitude and praise. Amen.

### BLESSING

# TUESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 43

*O God, my highest joy, I will praise you all  
my life.*

Decide in my favor, God,  
plead my case against the hateful,  
defend me from liars and thugs.  
For you are God my fortress.

Why have you forgotten me?  
Why am I bent double  
under the weight of enemies?

Send your light and truth.  
They will escort me  
to the holy mountain  
where you make your home.

I will approach the altar of God,  
God, my highest joy,  
and praise you with the harp,  
God, my God.

Why are you sad, my heart?  
Why do you grieve?  
Wait for the Lord.  
I will yet praise God my savior.

## READING

### *1 Thessalonians 5:2 – 6*

You yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Let us walk in your way as children of the light.*

## INTERCESSIONS

The God of life is in our midst, breathing energy and compassion into our hearts. We lift our voices in prayer and praise, as we say:

~ *Generous God, fill our hearts!*

We pray for the gift of gratitude that we may be thankful for each new day:

We pray for the gift of hope that we may be able to meet the challenges of each day with courage and conviction:

We pray for the gift of compassion that we may reach out to all who are oppressed, especially to women and men who struggle for equality and fullness of life:

We pray for the gift of joy that we may delight in the beauty of each person and in the mystery of your love:

We pray for the gift of peace that we may live in harmony with one another:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Generous God, we wait for you. You are our highest joy, our deepest peace. As we go forth to this day's tasks, let us carry your light within us. May our day begin in you and end in you so that all may be done for your glory. May you and you alone be the principal motive of our actions. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 62

*My soul waits for God alone, my safety and my salvation.*

My soul waits, silent for God,  
for God alone, my salvation,  
alone my rock, my safety,  
my refuge: I stand secure.

How long will some of you attack  
tearing others down  
as if walls or fences  
on the verge of collapse?

You scheme to topple them,  
so smug in your lies;  
your lips are all blessing,  
but murder fills your heart.

Wait, my soul, silent for God,  
for God alone, my hope,  
alone my rock, my safety,  
my refuge: I stand secure.

God is my glory and safety,  
my stronghold, my haven.  
People, give your hearts to God,  
trust always! God is our haven.

Mortals are but a breath,  
nothing more than a mirage;  
set them on the scales,  
they prove lighter than mist.

Avoid extortion and fraud,  
the hopes they breed are nothing;  
and if you should grow rich,  
place no trust in wealth.

Time and again God said,  
“Strength and love are mine to give.”  
The Lord repays us all  
in light of what we do.

## READING

### *Isaiah 43:1b – 4a*

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
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.  
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.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*We have been redeemed in Christ Jesus for whom alone  
we go forward or stay back.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O Jesus, true and eternal light, hear our prayer  
as night approaches:

*~ Let the light of your face shine upon us!*

For world leaders, that they may explore new  
and effective ways to achieve peace, we pray:

For those who suffer from poverty, that there  
may be a just and equal sharing of the world's  
resources, we pray:

For those suffering painful separations because  
of divorce, violence or death, that they may  
be comforted and supported by their faith and  
their friends, we pray:

For those who are spiritually blind, that they may receive your light, we pray:

For ourselves, that we may respect the beauty of the earth and strive to preserve it, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

For you alone, O God, we go forward or stay back, our hearts centered in you. May we find refreshment and security in you and be animated and strengthened for the service to which you call us. May the fruit of our ministry be union and charity among your people. Thus we will build your reign on earth as it is in heaven. We ask this, confident in your never-failing help. Amen.

### BLESSING



# WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 33

*All earth, be astounded, stand in awe of God.*

Shout joy to the Lord,  
lovers of justice,  
how right to praise!  
Praise God on the harp,  
with ten-string lyre  
sing to the Lord.

Sing God a new song.  
Play music to match  
your shout of joy.

For the word of the Lord is true:  
what God says, God does.  
This lover of truth and justice  
fills the earth with love.

God speaks: the heavens are made;  
God breathes: the stars shine.  
God bottles the waters of the sea  
and stores them in the deep.

All earth, be astounded,  
stand in awe of God.  
God speaks: the world is;  
God commands: all things appear.

God blocks the plans of nations,  
disrupts all they contrive.  
But God's plan and design  
lasts from age to age.  
Blest the land whose god is the Lord,  
the heirs whom God has chosen.

The Lord looks down  
and sees our human kind.  
From heaven God surveys  
all peoples on earth.  
The maker of human hearts  
knows every human act.

Armies do not save kings,  
brute force does not spare soldiers.  
The warhorse is a sham;  
despite its power, it will not save.

God keeps a loving eye  
on all who believe,  
on those who count on God  
to bring relief from famine,  
to rescue them from death.

With all we are, we wait for God,  
the Lord, our help, our shield.  
Our hearts find joy in the Lord;  
we trust God's holy name.  
Love us, Lord!  
We wait for you.

## READING

### *Romans 8:35 – 39*

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor things present, nor things to come, will be able to  
separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Our God shares the fullness of our humanity, and calls us to honor and care for all those who share the joys and sorrows of our human pilgrimage. We pray this morning for our companions on the journey:

~ *Faithful God, walk with your people today!*

For the persons with whom we share our daily lives in community:

For our parents, brothers and sisters, and all whom we call family:

For colleagues, associates and benefactors who share our ministry of mercy:

For teachers, health care workers, civic and church leaders and all with whom we serve:

For those who are sick, uneducated, oppressed and all who teach us how to be more merciful:

For candidates who are discerning a call to life as a Sister of Mercy:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, you emptied yourself, taking on human flesh that we might know the depths of divine love. Empty our hearts of all desires that are contrary to your heart. Let us never seek reward

for our service or recognition for our accomplishments. Let our joy be in knowing that we have given you our all, without any reserve. Grant us this, our desire. Amen.

## BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 18:2-4, 26-32

*My God, you are my light, a lamp for my darkness.*

I love you, God my strength,  
my rock, my shelter, my stronghold.

My God, I lean on you,  
my shield, my rock,  
my champion, my defense.  
When I call for help,  
I am safe from my enemies.  
Praise the Lord!

To those who are faithful  
you are faithful,  
with those who are honest  
you are candid.

To the just you show goodness,  
with the perverse you are cunning.  
You rescue the humble,  
the mighty are brought low.

My God, you are my light,  
a lamp for my darkness.  
With strength from you, Lord,  
I charge the enemy,  
I climb their ramparts.

God, your way is perfect,  
your word is fire-tried.  
You shield all who seek refuge.  
Who is God but the Lord?  
Who is the rock but our God?

## READING

### *Ezekiel 34:11 – 12, 14 – 16*

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed

on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We call upon you, O Christ, our good shepherd, to aid all those in leadership.

For Pope \_\_\_\_\_ and Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, we pray:

~ *Inspire them with Gospel vision.*

For leaders in ecclesial and religious institutions, we pray:

~ *Fill them with wisdom.*

For rulers in countries, states and all civic domains, we pray:

~ *Open their eyes to the needs of their citizens.*

For parents, teachers and caregivers, we pray:

~ *Grant them patience and perseverance.*

For all who give witness to your presence,  
we pray:

~ *Sustain them in their holy efforts.*

For incorporation ministers, we pray:

~ *Give them the wisdom and grace they need to  
accompany new members.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Gentle Shepherd, may the leaders of our church, our country, our religious community, find in you the model of compassionate, just and courageous leadership. Inspired by your example, may they be an encouraging and nurturing presence among us. May we challenge and support them in their efforts, so that, together, we may be one holy people making our way to you. We ask this, united in faith. Amen.

### BLESSING



# THURSDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 81

*You who are our strength, be with us in our need.*

Shout joy to God,  
the God of our strength,  
sing to the God of Jacob.

Lift hearts, strike tambourines,  
sound lyre and harp.  
Blow trumpets at the New Moon,  
till the full moon of our feast.

For this is a law for Israel,  
the command of Jacob's God,  
decreed for the house of Joseph  
when we marched from Egypt.

We heard a voice unknown:  
"I lifted burdens from your backs,  
a blistering load from your hands.

“You cried out in pain  
and I rescued you;  
robed in thunder,  
I answered you.  
At the waters of Meribah  
I tested you.

“My people, hear my complaint;  
Israel, if you would only listen.  
You shall have no other gods,  
do not bow before them.  
I am the Lord your God.  
I brought you out of Egypt  
and fed your hungry mouths.

“But you would not hear me,  
my people rejected me.  
So I hardened your hearts,  
and you left me out of your plans.  
My people, if you would only listen!  
Israel, walk in my ways!

“Then I will strike your enemy,  
and put them all to flight.  
With their fate sealed,  
my foes will grovel at your feet.  
But you, O Israel,  
will feast on finest wheat,  
will savor pure wild honey.”

## READING

### *Romans 14:17 – 19*

The kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Fill me, O God, with the spirit of justice  
and peace.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, as we begin this day, we remember your presence among us, and we pray.

You changed water into wine:

*~ May we be wine for those who thirst  
for justice.*

You calmed the storm at sea:

*~ May we be peace for the war-torn.*

You healed a man born blind:

*~ May we be hope for the powerless.*

You forgave a woman caught in adultery:

*~ May we be home for the brokenhearted.*

You drove out evil spirits:

*May we be a voice for the oppressed.*

You wept for Lazarus:

*May we be comfort for the sorrowing.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, you walked among us and were moved to compassion for your people. The lame and the leper came to you and found healing. The tax collector and the prostitute came, and you believed in them. No one was excluded from your love. Send us your spirit of union and compassion that we may make a home in our hearts for all the persons we meet. This day, O Jesus, give us hearts that love. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

## PSALM 121

*Our God is ever wakeful, guarding us from harm.*

If I look to the mountains,  
will they come to my aid?  
My help is the Lord,  
who made earth and the heavens.

May God, ever wakeful,  
keep you from stumbling;  
the guardian of Israel  
neither rests nor sleeps.

God shields you,  
a protector by your side.  
The sun shall not harm you by day  
nor the moon at night.

God shelters you from evil,  
securing your life.  
God watches over you near and far,  
now and always.

## READING

### *1 Peter 1:17b – 23*

Live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that

of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

#### CANTICLE OF MARY

*You are my treasure beyond price. With you I lack nothing.*

#### INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, model of love and faithfulness, be for us a rock and a stronghold of safety:

*~ We place our trust in you!*

For all world leaders, that they may be moved to work for peace and justice, we pray:

For all caretakers, that they may minister with competence and compassion, we pray:

For all those who dedicate themselves to you in a life of contemplation, that they may be faithful in their commitment, we pray:

For those seeking employment, that they may find satisfying work at a just wage, we pray:  
For all gathered here, that we may be faithful witnesses to the gospel message, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

We see how quietly you work, our good God. Night follows after day, soundlessly and peacefully. May this gentle and consistent succession remind us of your continuous watchfulness over our lives. May we go to rest this night, confident that you hold us in your loving care, now and forever. Amen.

### BLESSING

# FRIDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 51

*Creator God, reshape my heart. A changed heart you welcome.*

Have mercy, tender God,  
forget that I defied you.  
Wash away my sin,  
cleanse me from my guilt.

I know my evil well,  
it stares me in the face,  
evil done to you alone  
before your very eyes.

How right your condemnation!  
Your verdict clearly just.  
You see me for what I am,  
a sinner before my birth.

You love those centered in truth;  
teach me your hidden wisdom.  
Wash me with fresh water,  
wash me bright as snow.



Fill me with happy songs,  
let the bones you bruised now dance.  
Shut your eyes to my sin,  
make my guilt disappear.

Creator, reshape my heart,  
God, steady my spirit.  
Do not cast me aside  
stripped of your holy spirit.

Save me, bring back my joy,  
support me, strengthen my will.  
Then I will teach your way  
and sinners will turn to you.

Help me, stop my tears,  
and I will sing your goodness.  
Lord, give me words  
and I will shout your praise.

When I offer a holocaust,  
the gift does not please you.  
So I offer my shattered spirit;  
a changed heart you welcome.

In your love make Zion lovely,  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then sacrifice will please you,  
young bulls upon your altar.

## READING

### *1 Timothy 6:11b – 14*

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Jesus, you are our peace, reconciling us to God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Our God is a God of compassion. Mindful of this gift of loving-kindness, we pray for all who long for God's heart of mercy:

*~ Compassionate God, hear our prayer!*

For all who suffer and struggle alone, that they may receive healing and support:

For all who experience injustice and persecution, that they may receive strength and courage:

For all who walk in darkness and despair, that they may receive light and hope:

For all who grieve and mourn, that they may receive comfort and peace:

For all who will die today, that they may receive eternal life:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of healing and forgiveness, we come to you seeking your mercy. We want to be true followers of Jesus, but our intentions do not always find expression in our actions.

Strengthen us to do good and embolden us to proclaim the good news of salvation with confidence. We ask this in the name of Jesus, remembering his words: Ask and you shall receive. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 116:1-9, 12-14, 17-19

*I raise the cup of freedom as I call on God's name!*

I am filled with love,  
for the Lord hears me;  
the Lord bends to my voice  
whenever I call.

Death had me in its grip,  
the grave's trap was set,  
grief held me fast.  
I cried out for God,  
“Please, Lord, rescue me!”

Kind and faithful is the Lord,  
gentle is our God.  
The Lord shelters the poor,  
raises me from the dust.  
Rest once more, my heart,  
for you know the Lord's love.

God rescues me from death,  
wiping my tears,  
steadying my feet.  
I walk with the Lord  
in this land of the living.

What gift can ever repay  
God's gift to me?  
I raise the cup of freedom  
as I call on God's name!  
I fulfill my vows to you, Lord,  
standing before your assembly.

I bring a gift of thanks,  
as I call on your name.  
I fulfill my vows to you, Lord,  
standing before your assembly,  
in the courts of your house,  
within the heart of Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

## READING

### *1 Corinthians 2:6 – 10a*

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom,  
though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the  
rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish.  
But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden,  
which God decreed before the ages for our  
glory. None of the rulers of this age understood  
this; for if they had, they would not have  
crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,  
“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,

is the very thing that has been prepared  
for them who love God.”  
These things God has revealed to us through  
the Spirit.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart  
conceived, what you have prepared for those who love  
you.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, you are a gift to us, beyond all  
hope and expectation. With awe and appreciation,  
we express our gratitude to you.

We pray in gratitude for practical gifts of time  
and talent:

*~ May we use these blessings wisely for the well-  
being of others and for our own growth.*

We pray in gratitude for loving gifts of family  
and friends:

*~ May these blessings empower us to reach out to  
others in care and forgiveness.*

We pray in gratitude for natural gifts of sound  
and silence:

*~ May these blessings foster in us a spirit  
of contemplation and an attitude of reverence.*

We pray in gratitude for spontaneous gifts  
of creativity and inspiration:

*~ May we treasure these blessings as moments of  
divine life.*

We pray in gratitude for treasured gifts  
of health and happiness:

*~ May these blessings help us grow in wholeness and  
holiness.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Gracious God, at the close of this day, we remember all the graces with which you sustain and nurture us. You have called us, not to bestow gifts, but to bestow ourselves freely, relying with unhesitating confidence on your providence. May we live in this spirit of generosity, gladly sharing the goodness with which you have blessed us. We ask this in the name of Jesus who poured out his life for us. Amen.

### BLESSING

# SATURDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 92

*O God, how good to sing your love at dawn, your  
faithfulness at dusk.*

How good to thank you, Lord,  
to praise your name, Most High,  
to sing your love at dawn,  
your faithfulness at dusk  
with sound of lyre and harp,  
with music of the lute.  
For your work brings delight,  
your deeds invite song.

I marvel at what you do.  
Lord, how deep your thought!  
Fools do not grasp this,  
nor the senseless understand.  
Scoundrels spring up like grass,  
flourish and quickly wither.  
You, Lord, stand firm for ever.



See how your enemies perish,  
scattered to the winds,  
while you give me brute strength,  
pouring rich oil upon me.  
I have faced my enemies,  
heard them plot against me.

The just grow tall like palm trees,  
majestic like the cedars of Lebanon.  
They are planted in the temple courts  
and flourish in God's house,  
green and heavy with fruit  
even in old age.

Proclaim that God is just,  
my rock without a fault.

## READING

### *Romans 12:13 – 18*

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Make my heart like yours, O Jesus Christ, that I may weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God, your mercy endures forever. As a people called to be merciful, we need your loving kindness beyond all measure. We ask for your blessing as we minister to others this day:

*~ God of mercy, hear our prayer!*

We ask you to give us the spirit of the poor, grateful for simple gifts:

We ask you to bless our lives with meekness, freeing us to forgive:

We ask you to give us pure hearts, centered in you alone:

We ask you to comfort us in times of loss, strengthening us with the courage to mourn:

We ask you to energize us for justice, aware that we do not hunger and thirst for it alone:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

Blessed be your name, O God. You have filled the earth with your gifts. Blessed are those who have believed in you. Blessed are those who have sought to say “yes” to you. This day we stand in union with all our sisters who have gone before us and ask that we be strengthened to follow in the way of Mercy which is their legacy. Like them may we see you face to face in eternity, for Jesus has told us, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall see God!” Amen.

## BLESSING

# SUNDAY



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 141

*Let my prayer rise like incense, my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.*

Hurry, Lord! I call and call!  
Listen! I plead with you.  
Let my prayer rise like incense,  
my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.

Lord, guard my lips,  
watch my every word.  
Let me never speak evil  
or consider hateful deeds,  
let me never join the wicked  
to eat their lavish meals.

If the just correct me,  
I take their rebuke as kindness,  
but the unction of the wicked  
will never touch my head.  
I pray and pray  
against their hateful ways.

Let them be thrown  
against a rock of judgment,  
then they will know  
I spoke the truth.  
Then they will say,  
“Our bones lie broken upon the ground,  
scattered at the grave’s edge.”

Lord my God, I turn to you,  
in you I find safety.  
Do not strip me of life.  
Do not spring on me  
the traps of the wicked.  
Let evildoers get tangled  
in their own nets,  
but let me escape.

## READING

### *Hebrews 4:12 – 13*

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before God no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Deep within, let no voice but yours be heard. Let me taste your joy and peace, Spirit of God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we turn to you for inspiration at the close of day, and we pray:

~ *May your Spirit live in us!*

You are the Word made flesh, our God in human form:

You are the liberator, freeing us from bondage:

You are the fulfillment of the law, leading to the source of life:

You are the eternal Word, one with the Creator and the Holy Spirit:

You are the bread of life, sustaining and enriching us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, we have known you in various ways — as food and fulfillment, as Word and Savior. May your Holy Spirit dwell in us helping us to understand the meaning of your life and encouraging us to pattern our lives on you. Through this grace, we hope to recreate your presence in

our world. We ask this, confident that you will hear and respond to our prayer. Amen.

## BLESSING

## MORNING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 148

*Let there be praise: from the depths of the earth, from all that is living.*

Praise the Lord!  
Across the heavens,  
from the heights,  
all you angels, heavenly beings,  
sing praise, sing praise!

Sun and moon, glittering stars,  
sing praise, sing praise.  
Highest heavens, rain clouds,  
sing praise, sing praise.

Praise God's name,  
whose word called you forth  
and fixed you in place for ever  
by eternal decree.

Let there be praise:  
from depths of the earth,  
from creatures of the deep.

Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
storms, winds,  
mountains, hills,  
fruit trees and cedars,  
wild beasts and tame,  
snakes and birds,

princes, judges,  
rulers, subjects,  
men, women, \_\_\_\_\_  
old and young,  
praise, praise the holy name,  
this name beyond all names.

God's splendor above the earth,  
above the heavens,  
gives strength to the nation,  
glory to the faithful,  
a people close to the Lord.  
Israel, let there be praise!

## READING

### *Ezekiel 37:12b – 14*

Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open  
your graves, and bring you up from your graves,  
O my people; and I will bring you back to the



land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my

spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Give us your Spirit, O God, that we may live.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Creator God, as we begin a new day, we praise you for the wonder of human life and of all your creation. Help us to treasure these gifts and live gratefully in our universe. In this spirit, we pray.

For all creation:

*~ That we do not plunder our resources, but use them with awe and respect.*

For all living things:

*~ That they flourish in harmony and interdependence.*

For all people:

*~ That we reverence diversity rather than fear it.*

For world leaders:

*~ That they find ways to restore hope and dignity to those suffering from war and natural disasters.*

For church leaders:

*~ That they foster collaboration and shared decision-making.*

For the community of Mercy:

~ *That we incarnate God's loving compassion for all people.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of all peoples, bring forth your reign of peace and justice upon the earth. Gather nations together to work for the common good of their members. Bless our efforts to bring an end to famine, social injustice and the exploitation of nature. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 111

*With my whole heart, I will praise God, for who can forget God's wonders!*

With my whole heart  
I praise the Lord among the just.  
Great are God's works,

a delight to explore.  
In splendor, in majesty,  
God's justice will stand.

Who can forget God's wonders!  
a God, merciful and kind  
who nourished the faithful,  
upheld the covenant,  
and revealed mighty deeds,  
giving them the land of pagans.

Faithful, just, and true  
are all God's decrees:  
each law in its place,  
valid for ever.

The Lord redeems the faithful,  
decrees a lasting covenant.  
Holy and awesome God's name!

Fear of the Lord is wisdom's crown,  
wise are those who live by it.  
Praise the Lord for ever!

## READING

### *1 Peter 1:3 – 7*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ! By God's great mercy we have  
been given a new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from

the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Let no breach of charity ever occur among us. Let the sun never go down on our anger.*

### INTERCESSIONS

We place before our loving God the fervent prayer of our community:

~ *Loving God, hear our prayer!*

That leaders of all faith communities will pursue dialogue with courage and openness, let us pray:

That those who accept the call to religious or political office will look to the example of Jesus as a guide for their actions, let us pray:

That those who are oppressed or persecuted for their faith will be set free by the Spirit of Jesus, let us pray:

That all members of the Institute of Mercy will live in faith and service to the church and each other, let us pray:

That those who have died will enjoy the blessings of their eternal reward, let us pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God, you are merciful and kind. You give us all that we need for life and holiness; you fill our world with wonders. We will never forget you for we yearn to sing your praises. At the close of this day we lift our hearts in gratitude to you who sustain us and call us to yourself. Amen.

### BLESSING

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-- MONDAY



MORNING PRAYER

GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

PSALM 84

*To live with you is joy, to praise you and  
never stop.*

Your temple is my joy, \_\_\_\_\_  
Lord of heaven's might.  
I am eager for it,  
eager for the courts of God.  
My flesh, my flesh sings  
its joy to the living God.

As a sparrow homing,  
a swallow seeking a nest  
to hatch its young,  
I am eager for your altars,  
Lord of heaven's might,  
my king, my God.

To live with you is joy,  
to praise you and never stop.  
Those you bless with courage  
will bless you from their hearts.

When they cross the Valley of Thirst  
the ground is spaced with springs,  
with the welcome rain of autumn.  
They travel the towns to reach  
the God of gods in Zion.

Hear me, Lord of might,  
heed me, God of Jacob.  
God our shield, look,  
see the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts  
is worth a thousand without.  
I would rather stand at God's gate  
than move among the wicked.

God is our sun, our shield,  
the giver of honor and grace.  
The Lord never fails to bless  
those who walk with integrity.  
Lord of heaven's might,  
blest are all who trust in you.

## READING

### *James 2:12 – 17*

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say



you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*God of justice, may my faith be made flesh in my actions.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Let us present our petitions before God who hears our every need:

~ *Christ our Light, hear our prayer!*

For the church, may it spread the gospel to all who are experiencing suffering and pain in their lives:

For all nations, may they always seek peace, even in the face of war:

For those who are troubled and anxious, may they find peace in God’s life-giving word and eucharist:

For members of our regional community, may we actively support those who are experiencing suffering or difficulty in their lives:

For all those who have died, especially those who are close to us, may they experience the peace of God's kingdom:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

O God, in the beginning your Word called forth life from the depths of the earth to the highest heavens. We praise you for the wonders of creation, and we ask you to fashion us in your image that our lives may continue to praise you. We make this prayer through Jesus, the firstborn of creation. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 136

*Rejoice and give thanks. God's love is for ever.*

Our God is good, give thanks!  
God's love is for ever!  
Our God of gods, give thanks!  
God's love is for ever!  
Our Lord of lords, give thanks!  
God's love is for ever!

Alone the maker of worlds!  
God's love is for ever!  
Architect for the skies!  
God's love is for ever!  
Spread land on the sea!  
God's love is for ever!

Set the great lights above!  
God's love is for ever!  
The sun to rule the day!  
God's love is for ever!  
The moon and stars, the night!  
God's love is for ever!

Struck down Egypt's firstborn!  
God's love is for ever!  
Guided Israel's escape!  
God's love is for ever!  
Held out a mighty arm!  
God's love is for ever!

Split in two the Red Sea!  
God's love is for ever!  
Led Israel across!  
God's love is for ever!  
Drowned Pharaoh and his troops!  
God's love is for ever!

Led the desert trek!  
God's love is for ever!  
Struck down mighty tribes!  
God's love is for ever!  
Killed powerful kings!  
God's love is for ever!

Sihon, the Amorite king!  
God's love is for ever!  
And Og, Bashan's king!  
God's love is for ever!  
Gave Israel a land!  
God's love is for ever!  
For Israel to keep!  
God's love is for ever!

Remembered our distress!  
God's love is for ever!  
Kept us from defeat!  
God's love is for ever!  
God feeds all living things!  
God's love is for ever!  
God in heaven, be thanked!  
God's love is for ever!

## READING

### *Judith 16:13 – 15*

I will sing to my God a new song:  
O Lord, you are great and glorious,  
wonderful in strength, invincible.  
Let all your creatures serve you,  
for you spoke, and they were made.  
You sent forth your spirit, and it formed them;  
there is none that can resist your voice.  
For the mountains shall be shaken to their  
foundations with the waters;  
before your glance the rocks shall melt like wax.  
But to those who fear you you show mercy.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Discover to me, O my God, the greatness of heaven, the  
shortness of time, and the length  
of eternity.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O Extraordinary God, you reveal yourself  
in such ordinary ways; we pray to be more  
mindful of you in our everyday life:

~ *Help us to see you, O God.*

God of wonders, give us the eyes of children  
to respond with delight to the newness and  
freshness of each moment:

God of life, open our eyes to your presence  
in the faces of all whom we meet today:

God of truth, teach us to recognize your  
message in all the events of the day:

God of peace, show us the way to serenity  
in the midst of confusion and division:

God of light, we place our trust in you:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

The joys and sorrows of our lives follow one another, O God, as night follows day. Help us to accept moments of doubt or discouragement as readily as we accept times of joy and gladness, knowing that you “will soon come, both hands filled with favors and blessings.” We ask this through Jesus whose sufferings gave way to resurrection. Amen.

### BLESSING

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# TUESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 67

*Let every nation sing your praise, every nation  
on earth.*

Favor and bless us, Lord.  
Let your face shine on us,  
revealing your way to all peoples,  
salvation the world over.

Let nations sing your praise,  
every nation on earth.

The world will shout for joy,  
for you rule the planet with justice.  
In fairness you govern the nations  
and guide the peoples of earth.

Let the nations sing your praise,  
every nation on earth.

The land delivers its harvest,  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
O God, continue your blessing,  
may the whole world worship you.

## READING

*1 Corinthians 3:16 – 17, 21 – 23*

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*May we remain in you and you in us.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O God of the nations, we join with you in our longing for peace among all peoples of the earth. We acknowledge our failings to promote peace, and we ask pardon, as we pray:

~ *Make us instruments of your peace.*



We pray that dialogue among peoples will help us overcome distrust and cynicism:

We pray that human ingenuity will benefit the whole human family:

We pray that collaboration will replace destructive competition between countries:

We pray that mutual respect among nations and peoples will replace exploitation:

We pray that concern for the common good will permeate negotiations among nations:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Just God, you never fail to bless those who walk with integrity. Teach us to travel the paths of our lives trusting in your care, and make us eager to walk in your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 130

*Because you forgive, we stand in awe.*

From the depths I call to you,  
Lord, hear my cry.  
Catch the sound of my voice  
raised up, pleading.

If you record our sins,  
Lord, who could survive?  
But because you forgive  
we stand in awe.

I trust in God's word,  
I trust in the Lord.  
More than sentries for dawn  
I watch for the Lord.

More than sentries for dawn  
let Israel watch.  
The Lord will bring mercy  
and grant full pardon.  
The Lord will free Israel  
from all its sins.

## READING

### *Romans 12:9 – 12*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Spirit of love, make our love for one another flow out to all in need.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We come together this evening to welcome Christ into our hearts as we ask him to intercede on our behalf:

~ *Christ our hope, hear our prayer!*

That God will look after us and protect us from all that hinders our salvation:

That the Holy Spirit will ignite the flame of faith in those who do not yet recognize God as the center of their lives:

That the cries of the poor, the hungry, the abused and the homeless will be relieved through God's people:

That those who feel alone will find in this  
community welcome and hospitality:

That God will protect us from all harm and lead  
us to do only good:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

It is our confidence in you, O God, that causes  
us to hope. We have given ourselves to you  
and know that you hold us in your protective  
care. May this sure hope give us courage and  
creativity for ministry, bringing us closer  
and closer to the realization of your reign. We  
ask this through Jesus, our companion and  
guide. Amen.--

### BLESSING

# WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 98

*Break into song, into praise! Lift your voice in praise of our God!*

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
the Lord of wonderful deeds.  
Right hand and holy arm  
brought victory to God.

God made that victory known,  
revealed justice to nations,  
remembered a merciful love  
loyal to the house of Israel.  
The ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Shout to the Lord, you earth,  
break into song, into praise!  
Sing praise to God with a harp,  
with a harp and sound of music.  
With sound of trumpet and horn,  
shout to the Lord, our king.

Let the sea roar with its creatures,  
the world and all that live there!  
Let rivers clap their hands,  
the hills ring out their joy!

The Lord our God comes,  
comes to rule the earth,  
justly to rule the world,  
to govern the peoples aright.

## READING

### *Jeremiah 29:11 – 14*

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Blessed be your name, O God, giver of all good things.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Our hearts are filled with gratitude at the beginning of this new day, O God, for we remember your merciful love in days past. You nurture our life and renew our hope, and so we pray:

~ *We praise and bless you, O sustaining God.*

In gratitude we remember the gift of creation given to our first parents and the fruits of the earth which continue to nourish us:

In gratitude we remember how you fed your people in the desert and how you feed us today with your eucharistic bread:

In gratitude we remember the pillar of fire which led the Israelites to the promised land and the promise of eternal life which still guides us on our journey:

In gratitude we remember the prophets and saints of old and the holy men and women of today who inspire us:

In gratitude we remember all the little cheering things you permit to fall our way:

In gratitude, we remember the gift of our vocation to the Mercy way of life:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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## PRAYER

O God, our rising dawn, we greet you at the beginning of this day. We lift up our hands and hearts in joyful praise for your wonderful deeds. You led the people of Israel to freedom. You fed and nourished them for their journey. Sustain us today as we walk the path of justice and mercy. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 126

*O God, bring us back, as water to thirsty land.*

The Lord brings us back to Zion,  
we are like dreamers,  
laughing, dancing,  
with songs on our lips.

Other nations say,  
“A new world of wonders!  
The Lord is with them.”  
Yes, God works wonders.  
Rejoice! Be glad!



Lord, bring us back  
as water to thirsty land.  
Those sowing in tears  
reap, singing and laughing.

They left weeping, weeping,  
casting the seed.  
They come back singing, singing,  
holding high the harvest.

## READING

### *Ephesians 3:17 – 21*

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,  
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.  
I pray that you may have the power to comprehend,  
with all the saints, what is the breadth and  
length and height and depth, and to know the  
love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that  
you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to God who by the power at work  
within us is able to accomplish abundantly far  
more than all we can ask or imagine, to God  
be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all  
generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Glory to the one whose power at work within us is able to  
accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or  
imagine.*

## INTERCESSIONS

As we continue to spread Christ's peace in our world, let us also offer to him our prayers of petition.

We pray for the people of God:

~ *May we take time to meditate on God's presence in our world.*

We pray for government and religious leaders around the world:

~ *May they strive to attain peace, justice, and equality for all people.*

We pray for all people whose cry for justice and mercy falls on deaf ears:

~ *May they know the help of God.*

We pray for the members of our community:

~ *May we continue to be sensitive to the needs of others.*

We pray for those who are sick among us, in body or in spirit:

~ *May they experience God's healing presence.*

We pray for those you are calling to Mercy life:

~ *May they embrace religious life with generosity and gladness.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

Christ Jesus, we call upon you to be present wherever dissension and strife threaten the harmony to which you call your people. Let your healing love flow through us so that, with the energy of this grace, we may be instruments of reconciliation. We ask this in your name, you who are the prince of peace. Amen.

## BLESSING

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# THURSDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 29

*Holy is our God! Stand in awe before the God of creation.*

Give the Lord glory, you spirits!  
Give glory! Honor God's strength!  
Honor the name of the Lord!  
Bow when the Lord comes,  
majestic and holy.

God's voice thunders  
above the massive seas;  
powerful, splendid,  
God shatters the cedars,  
shatters the cedars of Lebanon,  
makes Lebanon jump like a calf,  
Sirion like a wild ox.

God's voice strikes fire,  
makes the desert shudder,  
Qadesh shudder in labor,  
deer writhe in labor.

God strips the trees.

All shout “Glory” in your temple, Lord.  
For you rule the mighty waters,  
you rule over all for ever.  
Give strength to your people, Lord,  
and bless your people with peace.

## READING

### *1 Peter 4:8 – 11a*

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*May our love for God's people be evident.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Refreshed by the night's healing rest and looking forward to the day unfolding before us, we pray:

*~ God of justice, transform our words  
into actions.*

That we may greet you in all the men, women and children we meet today, we pray:

That as Sisters and Associates of Mercy, we may speak out against institutions and laws that prevent true equality from becoming a reality, we pray:

That we may mirror the gospel in our lifestyle, we pray:

That we may allow our hearts to be filled with your love, we pray:

That we may commit ourselves to one specific action this day that will make peace a reality, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

O God, you lift our burdens and rescue us when we cry to you. Strengthen us to walk in your ways, carrying only what we need to listen carefully to your call and respond to you with generous hearts. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son and our brother. Amen.

### BLESSING

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## EVENING PRAYER

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### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 132:1–5, 13–18

*Our God dwells among us. We are God's resting place.*

Lord, remember David  
in all his humility.  
He swore an oath to you,  
O Mighty God of Jacob:

“I will not enter my home,  
nor lie down on my bed.  
I will not close my eyes  
nor will I sleep  
until I find a place for the Lord,  
a house for the Mighty God of Jacob.”

The Lord has chosen Zion,  
desired it as a home.  
“This is my resting place,  
I choose to live here for ever.

“I will bless it with abundance,  
even the poor will have food.  
I will vest the priests in holiness,  
and the faithful will shout for joy.

“Here I will strengthen David’s power  
and light a lamp for my anointed.  
His enemies I will clothe in shame,  
but on him a crown will shine.”

## READING

### *1 Peter 3:8 – 11*

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy,  
love for one another, a tender heart, and a  
humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse  
for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a  
blessing. It is for this that you were called —  
that you might inherit a blessing.

For

“Those who desire life  
and desire to see good days,  
let them keep their tongues from evil  
and their lips from speaking deceit;  
let them turn away from evil and do good;  
let them seek peace and pursue it.”

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Let us seek peace and follow its path.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We acknowledge our complete dependence on  
our generous and merciful God, as we pray:

~ *God of Mercy, hear our prayer!*



That Pope \_\_\_\_\_ and all bishops  
and servants of God will be blessed with good  
health and wisdom, we pray:

That the leaders of industry and agriculture will  
consider the poor and hungry of the world in  
all their decisions, we pray:

That people who enjoy abundance will be  
inspired by the love of God and neighbor to  
care for the poor of the world, we pray:

That those who discern a call to ministry will  
have the courage to respond, we pray:

That our departed sisters, relatives and friends  
will enjoy the fruits of their labors through  
the mercy of God, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

O God, you ~~w~~ho chose Zion as your resting  
place, make your home now with us. As we  
experience your comforting presence, may we  
be impelled to extend the hospitality of our  
homes and hearts to those without the protec-  
tion of food or shelter, love or companionship.  
Let us find rest in one another until we make  
our way home to you. We ask this in the name  
of Jesus, who lived among us. Amen.

### BLESSING

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FRIDAY

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GOS

MORNING PRAYER

— — —  
GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

PSALM 51

*Creator God, reshape my heart. A changed heart you welcome.*

Have mercy, tender God,  
forget that I defied you.  
Wash away my sin,  
cleanse me from my guilt.

I know my evil well,  
it stares me in the face,  
evil done to you alone  
before your very eyes.

How right your condemnation!  
Your verdict clearly just.  
You see me for what I am,  
a sinner before my birth.

You love those centered in truth;  
teach me your hidden wisdom.  
Wash me with fresh water,

wash me bright as snow.

Fill me with happy songs,  
let the bones you bruised now dance.  
Shut your eyes to my sin,  
make my guilt disappear.

Creator, reshape my heart,  
God, steady my spirit.  
Do not cast me aside  
stripped of your holy spirit.

Save me, bring back my joy,  
support me, strengthen my will.  
Then I will teach your way  
and sinners will turn to you.

Help me, stop my tears,  
and I will sing your goodness.  
Lord, give me words  
and I will shout your praise.

When I offer a holocaust,  
the gift does not please you.  
So I offer my shattered spirit;  
a changed heart you welcome.

In your love make Zion lovely,  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then sacrifice will please you,  
young bulls upon your altar.

## READING

### *2 Corinthians 12:7b – 10*

To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but the Lord said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*May I find my strength in my Savior. May the power of Christ dwell in me.*

## INTERCESSIONS

As we begin this new day, let us bring to God our prayers for the distressed peoples in our world:

*Have mercy, O God, have mercy.*

For the nations and peoples suffering from war and civil unrest, we pray:

For the cities of the world burdened by poverty and violence, we pray:

For civic leaders and government officials who struggle with temptations to greed and lust for power, we pray:

For employers and landlords who resist putting personal gain above justice for others, we pray:

For the areas of our own hearts, O God, that hold violence, prejudice, and hatred, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Tender God, your mercy heals the wounds of sin and division. Reshape our hearts and rebuild our shattered spirits; steady our lives and give us words to sing your praise. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 143 —

*Faithful God, grant us compassion.*

Hear me, faithful Lord!  
bend to my prayer,  
show compassion.  
Do not judge me harshly;  
in your sight, no one is just.

My enemy hunts me down,  
grinding me to dust,  
caging me with the dead  
in lasting darkness.  
My strength drains away,  
my heart is numb.

I remember the ancient days,  
I recall your wonders,  
the work of your hands.  
Dry as thirsty land,  
I reach out for you.

Answer me quickly, Lord.  
My strength is spent.  
Do not hide from me  
or I will fall into the grave.

Let morning announce your love,  
for it is you I trust.  
Show me the right way,  
I offer you myself.

Rescue me from my foes,  
you are my only refuge, Lord.  
Teach me your will,  
for you are my God.

Graciously lead me, Lord,  
on to level ground.  
I call on your just name,  
keep me safe, free from danger.

In your great love for me,  
disarm my enemies,  
destroy their power,  
for I belong to you.

## READING

### *2 Corinthians 4:7 – 12*

We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Crucified Savior, let us rejoice to share in the sufferings  
you endured for love of us.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Challenged by Jesus' example we now turn to our loving God, asking that our prayers for others and for ourselves be graciously heard:

*~ Gracious and loving God, be with us this day and  
always!*

For those who minister in the church, that they may always be faithful to the message of the gospel, we pray:

For leaders of countries and industries, that they may use their talents and resources to secure peace and dignity for all people, we pray:

For those who suffer and are unable to change their situations, that the grace of God and the love of all Christian communities may ease their pain, we pray:

For ourselves, that we may look at the gifts God has given to us and use them to further justice, peace, and equality in our world, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER



## PRAYER

Faithful God, we have known your gracious and loving care each day of our lives. May we never forget your benevolence. May we, through our lives of service, extend and honor your goodness among your people. In our acts of mercy and justice may you be known and honored, now and for all ages. Amen.

## BLESSING

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# SATURDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

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#### PSALM 149

*We delight in you, O God. Our joy is in our God who saves.*

Sing a new song, you faithful,  
praise God in the assembly.  
Israel, rejoice in your maker,  
Zion, in your king.  
Dance in the Lord's name,  
sounding harp and tambourine.

The Lord delights  
in saving a helpless people.  
Revel in God's glory,  
join in clan by clan.  
Shout praise from your throat,  
sword flashing in hand

to discipline nations  
and punish the wicked,  
to shackle their kings  
and chain their leaders,  
and execute God's sentence.  
You faithful, this is your glory!

Hallelujah!

## READING

### *Philippians 2:2 – 4, 14 – 16*

Make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*May I see your people through the prism of your love, O God.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O God, your mother Mary is the model for all who are called to holiness. Through her intercession we pray for women everywhere who reveal the feminine dimension of your love:

*~ O God, help us to respond to your call.*

For mothers, grandmothers, aunts and godmothers who call us to relationship, we pray:

For painters and potters, weavers and writers, artists and musicians, who call us to beauty, we pray:

For scientists, mathematicians, astronomers and astronauts, who call us to new discoveries, we pray:

For nurses, physicians, psychologists and other health care professionals, who call us to wholeness and healing, we pray:

For women who visit the sick, the elderly and the imprisoned, and who call us to compassion, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Faithful God, your labors of love delight us and your marvelous deeds move us to song. Make us eager to labor for the good of our neighbor and to witness to your care by our compassionate presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus and through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

### BLESSING

# SUNDAY



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 141

*Let my prayer rise like incense, my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.*

Hurry, Lord! I call and call!  
Listen! I plead with you.  
Let my prayer rise like incense,  
my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.

Lord, guard my lips,  
watch my every word.  
Let me never speak evil  
or consider hateful deeds,  
let me never join the wicked  
to eat their lavish meals.

If the just correct me,  
I take their rebuke as kindness,  
but the unction of the wicked  
will never touch my head.  
I pray and pray  
against their hateful ways.

Let them be thrown  
against a rock of judgment,  
then they will know  
I spoke the truth.  
Then they will say,  
“Our bones lie broken upon the ground,  
scattered at the grave’s edge.”

Lord my God, I turn to you,  
in you I find safety.  
Do not strip me of life.  
Do not spring on me  
the traps of the wicked.  
Let evildoers get tangled  
in their own nets,  
but let me escape.

## READING

### *2 Peter 1:19 – 21*

We have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*God of mercy, help us to walk in love as Christ loved us,  
united in mind and heart.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Let us profess our love for God by using God's gift of loving compassion to pray for the needs of all the people of the world:

*~ Compassionate Jesus, hear and grant  
our petitions!*

That the church, the house of God, will continue to grow in holiness and grace through the help of God and through our own prayers and good works, let us pray:

That our elected officials will work together for the good of all people, and that the fruit of their labor will be lasting peace, let us pray:

That those who are alienated from God will find peace through reconciliation, let us pray:

That the members of our Mercy communities, international, regional, and local, will experience the unity of love in the body of Christ, let us pray:

That the faithful who have died will rejoice to know the fruit of their labors as they enter the eternal kingdom of God, let us pray:



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Loving God, you inspire us with concern for the well-being of all creation. Give us also the strength to transform the compassion of our hearts into acts of mercy and justice. Jesus enfleshed your love as he walked among us; through our lives may your caring presence be evident in our time and culture. We pray as a community united in faith. Amen.

### BLESSING

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 95

*Come, sing with joy to God. Come, worship our God.*

Come, sing with joy to God,  
shout to our savior, our rock.  
Enter God's presence with praise,  
enter with shouting and song.

A great God is the Lord,  
over the gods like a king.  
God cradles the depths of the earth,  
holds fast the mountain peaks.  
God shaped the ocean and owns it,  
formed the earth by hand.

Come, bow down and worship,  
kneel to the Lord our maker.  
This is our God, our shepherd,  
we are the flock led with care.

Listen today to God's voice:  
"Harden no heart as at Meribah,  
on that day in the desert at Massah.  
There your people tried me,  
though they had seen my work.

"Forty years with that lot!  
I said: They are perverse,  
they do not accept my ways.  
So I swore in my anger:  
They shall not enter my rest."

## READING

### *2 Timothy 2:8, 11 – 13*

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,  
a descendant of David — that is my gospel.  
The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live  
with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he will also deny us;  
if we are faithless, he remains faithful —  
for he cannot deny himself.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Let me gaze upon you, O God, that I may see your  
beauty.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O God, after you created the heavens and the  
earth, you took time to rest, and so we pray:

~ *Renew our spirits, O Creator God.*

For all peoples of the earth, who cry out to you  
to make all things new, we pray:

For those who harvest the land and seas, that all  
may enjoy your abundance, we pray:

For ourselves, that we may rest from our labors  
and abandon all that distracts us from your  
plan for us, we pray:

For all ministers in the church, that they may  
restore others through their service, we pray:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

Holy One, you bring us joy in the morning!  
All creation is shaped by your hand, to live in  
harmony and dignity. Open our hearts to listen  
to your word and to praise you throughout  
this day. We ask this as your people united in  
one spirit. Amen.

## BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 112

*Mercy and justice shine forth. Strong hearts  
trust God.*

Happy those who love God  
and delight in the law.  
Their children shall be blest,  
strong and upright in the land.

Their households thrive,  
their integrity stands firm.  
A light shines on them in darkness,  
a God of mercy and justice.

The good lend freely  
and deal fairly,  
they will never stumble;  
their justice shall be remembered.

Bad news holds no power,  
strong hearts trust God.  
Steady and fearless,  
they look down on their enemy.

They support the poor,  
their integrity stands firm,  
their strength brings them honor.

Hatred devours the wicked.  
They grind their teeth;  
their hopes turn to ashes.

## READING

### *Job 42:1 – 5*

Then Job answered the Lord:  
“I know that you can do all things,  
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.  
‘Who is this that hides counsel without  
knowledge?’  
Therefore I have uttered what I did not  
understand,  
things too wonderful for me, which I did  
not know.  
‘Hear, and I will speak;

I will question you, and you declare to me.  
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,  
but now my eye sees you;  
therefore I repent in dust and ashes.”

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Let me be attentive to you as to a lamp shining in a dark place.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We praise and worship the God who has the power to deliver us. Certain that we are joined together in the presence of that God, let us lift our prayers to the heavens:

~ *God of power and might, hear our prayer!*

That all who serve God through the church may be examples of the great love that Jesus calls us to share, we humbly ask:

That there may be a healing of relationships in our world, especially among people who harbor violence, hatred, and indifference toward others, we humbly ask:

That the sick may know the power and love of God, we humbly ask:

That we may give thanks for the food we have and the farmers who harvest the land, we humbly ask:

That those who have died may live in God's everlasting love, we humbly ask:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

They are called happy, O God, who love your law. We pray, then, that the pattern of the gospel may be repeated in our lives and that we may experience the joy and peace that accompany those who walk in the way traced for us by Jesus. May others be encouraged by our example to set their feet on the path to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our good companion. Amen.

### BLESSING

# MONDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 103

*Bless God, who fills your life with richness and gives you an eagle's strength.*

My soul, bless the Lord,  
bless God's holy name!  
My soul, bless the Lord,  
hold dear all God's gifts!

Bless God, who forgives your sin  
and heals every illness,  
who snatches you from death  
and enfolds you with tender care,  
who fills your life with richness  
and gives you an eagle's strength.

The Lord, who works justice  
and defends the oppressed,  
teaches Moses and Israel  
divine ways and deeds.



The Lord is tender and caring,  
slow to anger, rich in love.  
God will not accuse us long,  
nor bring our sins to trial,  
nor exact from us in kind  
what our sins deserve.

As high as heaven above earth,  
so great is God's love for believers.  
As far as east from west,  
so God removes our sins.

As tender as father to child,  
so gentle is God to believers.  
The Lord knows how we are made,  
remembers we are dust.

Our days pass by like grass,  
our prime like a flower in bloom.  
A wind comes, the flower goes,  
empty now its place.

God's love is from all ages,  
God's justice beyond all time  
for believers of each generation:  
those who keep the covenant,  
who take care to live the law.

The Lord reigns from heaven,  
rules over all there is.  
Bless the Lord, you angels,  
strong and quick to obey,  
attending to God's word.

Bless the Lord, you powers,  
eager to serve God's will.  
Bless the Lord, you creatures,  
everywhere under God's rule.  
My soul, bless the Lord!

## READING

### *2 Samuel 22:26 – 29*

With the loyal you show yourself loyal;  
with the blameless you show yourself blameless;  
with the pure you show yourself pure,  
and with the crooked you show yourself  
perverse.

You deliver a humble people,  
but your eyes are upon the haughty to bring  
them down.

Indeed, you are my lamp, O Lord,  
the Lord lightens my darkness.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*In you we can do all things; of ourselves we can do  
nothing.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O God of mercy, as we begin our day we place our needs in your hands, and we pray:

~ *Merciful God, hear our prayer.*

For all those who minister to your people, that they may be blessed with strength and courage, we pray:

For ourselves and all others in need of mercy, that we may experience your gentle compassion, we pray:

For victims of violence and other forms of abuse, that they may be healed by your tender mercy, we pray:

For the young who are searching for meaning in their lives, that they may see in our lives Christ's love for them, we pray:

For all those who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_, that they may be united with you, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

O God, you are rich in love and tenderness. Give us all we need this day so that we may follow the example of Jesus. Help us to hear and to respond to the pleas for mercy in our land. May we praise you forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 40

*Your maternal love surrounds us. Your sure and tender care protects us always.*

I waited and waited for God.  
At long last God bent down  
to hear my complaint,  
and pulled me from the grave  
out of the swamp,  
and gave me a steady stride  
on rock-solid ground.

God taught me a new song,  
a hymn of praise.  
Seeing all this,  
many will be moved  
to trust in the Lord.

Happy are they who trust in God,  
not seduced by idols  
nor won over by lies.

You do so many wonders,  
you show you care for us,  
Lord my God;  
you are beyond compare.  
Were I to name them all,  
no one could keep track.

You did not seek offerings  
or ask for sacrifices;  
but you drilled ears  
for me to hear.

“Yes,” I said, “I will come  
to live by your written word.”  
I want to do what pleases you;  
your teaching is in my heart.

I celebrate your justice  
before all the assembly;  
I do not hold back the story.  
Lord, you know this is true.

I did not hide in my heart  
your acts of rescue;  
I boldly declared to all  
your truth and care, your faithful love.

Your maternal love  
surrounds me, Lord.  
Your sure and tender care  
protects me always.

Countless evils surround me,  
more than the hairs on my head;  
my sins overwhelm me,  
so many I can hardly see.  
My courage fails me.

Please, Lord, rescue me;  
hurry, Lord, help me.  
Stop my killers, shame them,  
wipe out my bitter enemies.

Let those who jeer at me,  
“Too bad for you!”  
be rewarded with shame.

But let all who seek you  
and count on your strength  
sing and dance and cheer  
“Glory to God!”

Though I am weak and poor,  
God cares for me.  
My help, my savior,  
my God, act now!

## READING

### *Isaiah 49:14 – 16a*

Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me,  
my Lord has forgotten me.”

Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
or show no compassion for the child  
of her womb?  
Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.  
See, I have inscribed you on the palms  
of my hands.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*May our hearts overflow with love for one another as we  
rejoice in your love for us.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Grateful for your creative love, O God, we pray  
for those who bear life. Confident of your care  
for them, we pray:

~ *Protect them with your love.*

For women who bring forth their children  
in uncertainty — for refugees and for the  
homeless, we pray:

For women who are dismayed to find themselves  
pregnant, we pray:

For women who lack the resources to care for  
their children, we pray:

For women whose children have disappeared,  
we pray:

For women who watch their children suffer and die, we pray:

For women who generously embrace the experience of motherhood, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Your maternal love surrounds us, O God, nurturing and sustaining our lives. Inspired by your gentle care, may we offer our support and encouragement to those whom you have called to nurture new life. Give them strength and courage, patience and joy, as they tend these most vulnerable members of Christ's body. We offer this prayer through the intercession of Mary who bore your Son Jesus to our world. Amen.

### BLESSING



# TUESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 96

*Tell the whole world God's glory, God's wonder!*

A new song for the Lord!  
Sing it and bless God's name,  
everyone, everywhere!  
Tell the whole world  
God's triumph day to day,  
God's glory, God's wonder.

A noble God deserving praise,  
the dread of other gods,  
the puny gods of pagans;  
for our God made the heavens —  
the Lord of majestic light  
who fills the temple with beauty.

Proclaim the Lord, you nations,  
praise the glory of God's power,  
praise the glory of God's name!  
Bring gifts to the temple,  
bow down, all the earth,  
tremble in God's holy presence.

Tell the nations, “The Lord rules!”  
As the firm earth is not swayed,  
nothing can sway God’s judgment.  
Let heaven and earth be glad,  
the sea and sea creatures roar,  
the field and its beasts exult.

Then let the trees of the forest sing  
before the coming of the Lord,  
who comes to judge the nations,  
to set the earth aright,  
restoring the world to order.

## READING

*Joel 2:19a, 21 – 23a, 26a, 27a*

In response to his people the Lord said:  
I am sending you  
grain, wine, and oil,  
and you will be satisfied.  
Do not fear, O soil;  
be glad and rejoice,  
for the Lord has done great things!  
Do not fear, you animals of the field,  
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit,  
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.  
O children of Zion, be glad  
and rejoice in the Lord your God.  
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,

and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is  
no other.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*May we be alive to the power of God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

God, we thank you and praise you for the  
beginning of another day. Knowing that you  
meet us everywhere, we pray:

*~ God of Surprises, show us your face.*

For the grace to see you in all the events of our  
lives, even when they seem like moments of  
adversity, we pray:

For the grace to see you in all the interruptions  
of the day, we pray:

For the grace to see your suffering face in all of  
the troubled people we meet today, we pray:

For the grace to see you in the familiar faces  
that we take for granted each day, we pray:

For the grace to see you in those who are sick,  
or lonely, or poor, or brokenhearted, we pray:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

God of wonder, we rise this day to give you praise, for you never stop filling the world with beauty. May our lives reflect your glory to the world. Believing in the power of your name and trusting in your Spirit, we ask this through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

## BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 34

*Drink in the richness of God. Enjoy the strength of the Holy One.*

I will never stop thanking God,  
with constant words of praise.  
My soul will boast of God;  
the poor will hear me and be glad.

Join me in praising the Lord,  
together tell of God's name.  
I asked and the Lord responded,  
freed me from all my fears.

Turn to God, be bright with joy;  
you shall never be let down.  
I begged and God heard,  
took my burdens from me.

God's angel defends the faithful,  
guards them on every side.  
Drink in the richness of God,  
enjoy the strength of the Lord.

Live in awe of God, you saints:  
you will want for nothing.  
Even if lions go hungry,  
those seeking God are fed.

Come to me, children, listen:  
learn to cherish the Lord.  
Do you long for life,  
for time to enjoy success?

Keep your tongue from evil,  
keep lies far from your lips.  
Shun evil, go after good,  
press on, seek after peace.

God confronts the wicked  
to blot them out for ever,  
but turns toward the just  
to hear their cry for help.

The troubled call out; God hears,  
saves them from all distress.  
God stays near broken hearts,  
heals the wounded spirit.

The good endure great trials,  
but God comes to their rescue  
and guards their every bone  
so not one is broken.

Evil kills its own kind,  
dooms the wicked to death.  
God saves those who keep faith;  
no trusting soul is doomed.

## READING

### *Colossians 3:15 – 17*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*We will sing your praise, O God, for you renew us with your love.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God's love calls us together for spiritual nourishment and gives us the opportunity to ask for help in our needs:

~ *Gracious God, we ask in faith.*

For the church, may we hear your words of love that enable us to grow in our commitment, we pray:

For public officials, may they submit to your laws in the performance of their public service, we pray:

For the oppressed in our world, may they feel your touch through our hands, we pray:

For each member of our community, that we may offer the love of Jesus to one another, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, you promised that whatever we ask for in your name will be granted. Confident in this promise, we pray for the needs of our earth and of all who share it as their home. Give us what we need for life and holiness, so that in all we do we may praise your name and hasten the coming of your reign. In your name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

### BLESSING

# WEDNESDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 108

*Awake, my harp and lyre, so I can wake up  
the dawn.*

I have decided, O God,  
I will sing of your glory,  
will sing your praise.  
Awake, my harp and lyre,  
so I can wake up the dawn.

I will lift my voice,  
sing of you, Lord, to all nations.  
For your love fills the heavens,  
your unfailing love, the sky.

O God, rise high above the heavens!  
Spread your glory across the earth!  
Deliver those you love,  
use your strength to rescue me.



God decreed in the temple:  
“I give away Shechem,  
parcel out Succoth.  
Manasseh and Gilead are mine.

“With Ephraim as my helmet,  
and Judah my spear,  
I will make Moab my wash bowl,  
trample Edom under my feet,  
and over Philistia shout in triumph.”

Who will help me, Lord,  
scale the heights of Edom  
and breach the city wall?  
God, will you keep holding back?  
Will you desert our camp?

Stand by us against the enemy,  
all other aid is worthless.  
With you the battle is ours,  
you will crush our foes.

## READING

### *Deuteronomy 4:39 – 40*

Acknowledge today and take to heart that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. Keep God’s statutes and commandments, which I am commanding you today for your own well-being and that of your descendants after you, so that

you may long remain in the land that the Lord  
your God is giving you for all time.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*You are my God, there is no other.*

## INTERCESSIONS

As dawn breaks, O God, we sing to you our  
songs of praise and petition.

O God, you are our rock of safety:

*~ May we cling to you in times of doubt  
and difficulty.*

O God, you are our river of life:

*~ May your life flow through us, filling the dry,  
withered places in our hearts.*

O God, you are our garden of fruitfulness:

*~ May those you are calling to religious life respond  
with courage and conviction.*

O God, you are our rain of mercy:

*~ May your compassion cleanse indifference from  
our world.*

O God, you are our star of justice:

*~ May your light of truth shine on all areas of  
oppression that we may see better how  
to eradicate injustice.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

O God, you stand by us each new day. We desire to follow you and to glory in your name. Help us to give all that we have and not hold back as we sing your praise in unity with your eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## EVENING PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 139

*O God, you search me and know me. You loved me before I was born.*

You search me, Lord, and know me.  
Wherever I sit or stand,  
you read my inmost thoughts;  
whenever I walk or rest,  
you know where I have been.

Before a word slips from my tongue,  
Lord, you know what I will say.  
You close in on me,  
pressing your hand upon me.  
All this overwhelms me—  
too much to understand!

Where can I hide from you?  
How can I escape your presence?  
I scale the heavens, you are there!  
I plunge to the depths, you are there!

If I fly toward the dawn,  
or settle across the sea,  
even there you take hold of me,  
your right hand directs me.

If I think night will hide me  
and darkness give me cover,  
I find darkness is not dark.  
For your night shines like day,  
darkness and light are one.

You created every part of me,  
knitting me in my mother's womb.  
For such handiwork, I praise you.  
Awesome this great wonder!  
I see it so clearly!

You watched every bone  
taking shape in secret,  
forming in the hidden depths.  
You saw my body grow  
according to your design.

You recorded all my days  
before they ever began.  
How deep are your thoughts!  
How vast their sum!  
like countless grains of sand,  
well beyond my grasp.

Lord, destroy the wicked,  
save me from killers.  
They plot evil schemes,  
they blaspheme against you.

How I hate those who hate you!  
How I detest those who defy you!  
I hate with a deadly hate  
these enemies of mine.

Search my heart, probe me, God!  
Test and judge my thoughts.  
Look! do I follow crooked paths?  
Lead me along your ancient way.

## READING

### *Romans 5:1 – 5*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing

that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*We sing to you with psalms and inspired songs, telling of your wonders.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Knowing the love that God has for us encourages us to hand over our anxieties and to ask for what we need:

*~ God of hope, hear our prayer!*

For all church leaders, that they may persevere in bringing Christ into the world, let us pray:

For our elected officials, that they may accept and fulfill the moral responsibilities placed upon them, let us pray:

For all the underprivileged in the world, that they may find solace and strength in the knowledge of God's presence, let us pray:

For those who struggle to preserve life, that the Giver of all life may be their strength, let us pray:

For all our deceased, that while we grieve,  
we may rejoice in their new life with Christ,  
let us pray:

For the women in the process of incorporation,  
that they experience the support and encourage-  
ment they need to become firmly rooted in  
Mercy life:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God, you know our needs and desires before  
we are able to form the words. Read our hearts,  
then, and grant us what we most need to walk  
in health and holiness before you. As you are  
generous with us, may we be open-handed with  
all those whose needs are greater than our own.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus who fed and  
healed us. Amen.

### BLESSING

# THURSDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 147

*Open our ears to hear you, O God who speak  
to the earth.*

How good to sing God praise!  
How lovely the sound!

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem  
and gathers the exiles of Israel,  
healing the brokenhearted,  
binding their aching wounds.

God fixes the number of stars,  
calling each by name.  
Great is our God and powerful,  
wise beyond all telling.  
The Lord upholds the poor  
but lets the wicked fall.



Sing thanks to the Lord,  
sound the harp for our God.  
The Lord stretches the clouds,  
sending rain to the earth,  
clothing mountains with green.

The Lord feeds the cattle  
and young ravens when they call.  
A horse's strength, a runner's speed —  
they count for nothing!  
The Lord favors the reverent,  
those who trust in God's mercy.

Jerusalem, give glory!  
Praise God with song, O Zion!  
For the Lord strengthens your gates  
guarding your children within.  
The Lord fills your land with peace,  
giving you golden wheat.

God speaks to the earth,  
the word speeds forth.  
The Lord sends heavy snow  
and scatters frost like ashes.

The Lord hurls chunks of hail.  
Who can stand such cold?  
God speaks, the ice melts;  
God breathes, the streams flow.

God speaks his word to Jacob,  
to Israel, his laws and decrees.  
God has not done this for others,  
no others receive this wisdom.

Hallelujah!

## READING

### *Romans 8:18 – 21*

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*God, our refuge and our strength, be our hope in times of trouble.*

## INTERCESSIONS

As we greet this new day, we praise you, loving God, and beg for your blessing.

You are our safety and our strength:

~ *Help us to support one another when we experience crisis and pain.*

You created the world and all its creatures:

~ *Help us to be protectors and advocates of life, for the earth and all its inhabitants.*

You sent your Beloved to free us from sin and the power of death:

~ *Help us to bring your peace to all who are sick and dying.*

You call us to remember those who are forgotten:

~ *Help us to comfort those who suffer, especially those who are scorned and ignored.*

You made us in your image:

~ *Help us to bring down the barriers that divide us and to recognize one another as members of the same human family.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

You are the God who upholds us in our weakness. Be with us when we are in trouble. May we open our ears to hear, as you call us each by name. Give us courage for this new day as we place our trust in you. We pray always and forever through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 23

*The goodness and love of God will tend me every day of my life.*

The Lord is my shepherd,  
I need nothing more.  
You give me rest in green meadows,  
setting me near calm waters,  
where you revive my spirit.

You guide me along sure paths,  
you are true to your name.  
Though I should walk in death's dark valley,  
I fear no evil with you by my side,  
your shepherd's staff to comfort me.

You spread a table before me  
as my foes look on.  
You soothe my head with oil;  
my cup is more than full.

Goodness and love will tend me  
every day of my life.  
I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
as long as I shall live.

## READING

### *Colossians 1:21 – 23*

You who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, Christ has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before God — provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Creation waits with eager longing for the dawning of your glory.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O Jesus, trusting in your merciful love, we humbly come before you with our petitions for those in need:

*~ Jesus, meek and humble of heart, hear us as we pray!*

For the pope and all church leaders, that they may stand firm in the teachings of Christ and strong in proclaiming the gospel:

For all Christians, that we may work actively to heal the divisions among us:

For those whose desire to follow the commandments has grown weak, that their hearts may be strengthened by the mercy of God:

For our communities, that our lives of service may be directed to the honor and glory of God:

For all the dead whose earthly purpose was accomplished in the love of Christ, that they may now be secure in the embrace of that same love:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Gentle Shepherd, you guide us to places of rest and revive our weary spirits. As we come to the end of this day we are grateful, once again, for these restoring gifts. Under your watchful care, may we rest secure through the night and rise refreshed and ready for your service. We ask this in confidence, for you hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

### BLESSING

# FRIDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 51

*Creator God, reshape my heart. A changed heart you welcome.*

Have mercy, tender God,  
forget that I defied you.  
Wash away my sin,  
cleanse me from my guilt.

I know my evil well,  
it stares me in the face,  
evil done to you alone  
before your very eyes.

How right your condemnation!  
Your verdict clearly just.  
You see me for what I am,  
a sinner before my birth.

You love those centered in truth;  
teach me your hidden wisdom.  
Wash me with fresh water,  
wash me bright as snow.

Fill me with happy songs,  
let the bones you bruised now dance.  
Shut your eyes to my sin,  
make my guilt disappear.

Creator, reshape my heart,  
God, steady my spirit.  
Do not cast me aside  
stripped of your holy spirit.

Save me, bring back my joy,  
support me, strengthen my will.  
Then I will teach your way  
and sinners will turn to you.

Help me, stop my tears,  
and I will sing your goodness.  
Lord, give me words  
and I will shout your praise.

When I offer a holocaust,  
the gift does not please you.  
So I offer my shattered spirit;  
a changed heart you welcome.

In your love make Zion lovely,  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then sacrifice will please you,  
young bulls upon your altar.



## READING

### *Galatians 2:19 – 20*

For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.*

## INTERCESSIONS

O God, we are mindful of your compassion in all seasons. As we turn to you, we pray for those with special needs:

~ *Make them instruments of your mercy.*

For leaders in the church, striving to minister with compassion, we pray:

For leaders in our world, striving to govern with justice and integrity, we pray:

For leaders in our Institute, striving to further the mission of mercy, we pray:

For educators, leading others to search for truth, we pray:

For health care workers, helping others regain their health or accept their diminishment, we pray:

For those ministering in pastoral and social services, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of all mercy, you give us truth and wisdom for all our days, but we shut our ears to your word and close our hearts to your call. Come to us as we struggle to open our hearts to welcome your Spirit this day. Help us to support one another as we seek to be worthy of the life to which we are called. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

## EVENING PRAYER



### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 145

*Let your mercy be known through all the earth.*

I will exalt you, God my king,  
for ever bless your name.  
I will bless you every day,  
for ever praise your name.

Great is the Lord, highly to be praised,  
great beyond our reach.

Age to age proclaims your works,  
recounts your mighty deeds.  
I ponder your splendor and glory  
and all your wonderful works.

They reveal your fearful power,  
I tell of your great deeds.  
They recall your ample goodness,  
joyfully sing your justice.

Gracious and merciful is the Lord,  
slow to anger, full of love.  
The Lord is good in every way,  
merciful to every creature.

Let your works praise you, Lord,  
your faithful ones bless you.  
Let them proclaim your glorious reign,  
let them tell of your might.

Let them make known to all  
your might and glorious reign.  
Your dominion lasts for ever,  
your rule for all generations!

The Lord is faithful in every word  
and gracious in every work.  
The Lord supports the fallen,  
raises those bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,  
you give them food in due time.  
You open wide your hand  
to feed all living things.

The Lord is just in every way,  
loving in every deed.  
The Lord is near to those who call,  
who cry out from their hearts.

God grants them their desires,  
hears their cry and saves them.  
Those who love God are kept alive;  
the wicked, the Lord destroys.

I will sing the Lord's praise,  
let all flesh bless God's Name,  
holy, both now and for ever.

## READING

### *Romans 8:1 – 2, 10 – 11*

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, that God who raised Christ

from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Let your Spirit find a dwelling place in us, O God.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Let us bring all our prayers and those of the world before our God who loves us:

*~ Spirit of Jesus, dwelling within us, hear our prayer.*

For the church and all who minister in Christ's name, that we may remain strong in our faith and zeal for spreading the Good News, we pray:

For world leaders and politicians, that they may not get caught up in the pursuit of priorities that hinder justice, we pray:

For the victims of chemical dependency, that they may find the strength to deal with this problem through God's love for them, we pray:

For our community, that we may strive to live lives rooted in the gospel and our mercy tradition, we pray:

For those who will die today, that they may be greeted by the angels and saints welcoming them home, we pray:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, dwell in our hearts. Through your transforming power help us to respond more courageously to the gospel challenges calling us to practical love for our sisters and brothers. Inspired by the example of Catherine McAuley may we carry the Good News of your mercy to our world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## BLESSING

# SATURDAY



## MORNING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 8

*Let the whole world tell of God's greatness.*

Lord our God,  
the whole world tells  
the greatness of your name.  
Your glory reaches  
beyond the stars.

Even the babble of infants  
declares your strength,  
your power to halt  
the enemy and avenger.

I see your handiwork  
in the heavens:  
the moon and the stars  
you set in place.

What is humankind  
that you remember them,  
the human race  
that you care for them?

You treat them like gods,  
dressing them in glory and splendor.  
You give them charge of the earth,  
laying all at their feet:

cattle and sheep,  
wild beasts,  
birds of the sky,  
fish of the sea,  
every swimming creature.

Lord our God,  
the whole world tells  
the greatness of your name.

## READING

### *Revelations 21:5 – 6*

The one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.



## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*A new heaven and a new earth you prepare for us, O God. Let your love shine forth.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God of the heavens and the earth, open our eyes to the beauty of your handiwork. In a spirit of trust, we bring you our needs:

~ *Gracious God, hear our prayer.*

That all who minister in the church will use its resources to serve those in need, we pray:

That world leaders will pursue the common good rather than personal gain, we pray:

That our companions will find in us a reflection of the hospitality of Christ, we pray:

That all who are hungry in body or spirit will be fed from your abundance, we pray:

That those who are depressed and discouraged will find their burdens lifted, we pray:

That the sick and dying will find healing and peace, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER

All glorious God, yours are the heavens and the earth. We begin this day telling of your greatness and knowing our responsibility to help bring about a new heaven and a new earth. Give us strength for our charge, and joy in its fulfillment. We ask this, believing in the power of Jesus' name. Amen.

## BLESSING

# PROPERS OF THE SAINTS

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Will we all meet in heaven?  
O what joy even to think of it!

M. & M. Auley



January 4

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

*Many seek to love God by different methods  
but there is none so short and so easy as to  
do everything for God's love.*

PRAYER

O God, Elizabeth Ann Seton served you as wife, mother, founder and community member. As we celebrate her feast day we pray for women called upon to act in numerous and sometimes conflicting roles. Give them the energy and support they need to fulfill their responsibilities. Let them experience you as the center of their hearts for whom alone they go forward or stay back. We ask this through her intercession. Amen.

Second Sunday of January

SANTO NIÑO

*The child grew and became strong, filled with  
wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.*

PRAYER

Holy Child, centuries ago your miraculous image drew the Filipino people to Christianity. May

we who have been welcomed into the household of the faith experience your revelation in our daily lives. May we work together to bring the Good News of your saving love to all humankind. We ask this confident in your strengthening companionship. Amen.

January 15

## THE BLACK CHRIST OF ESQUIPULAS

*There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples, standing before the Lamb.*

### PRAYER

God of all peoples, in the Black Christ of Esquipulas you reveal yourself to the people of Central America. May we, all members of your body, grow in our respect for the rich cultures and traditions of our world. May all tribes and nations come to know one another as sisters and brothers, and may we know you as our God, who calls us to unity. We ask this through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

January 21

## SAINT AGNES

*Agnes prayed to God: "I am coming to you whom I have loved, whom I have sought and always desired."*

### PRAYER

Agnes accepted martyrdom, O God, rather than surrender her Christian beliefs. Inspired by her example, may we be strengthened in our determination to live our lives in harmony with the gospel. May nothing come between us and your love poured out in Jesus. We ask this in his name. Amen.

January 22

## BLESSED LAURA VICUNA

*Our God shepherds us and leads us to peace.*

### PRAYER

Good Shepherd, reflecting on your gospel story, Blessed Laura offered her life that her mother might be released from an abusive situation. May her example challenge us to respond courageously to the needs of women who live in threatening or demeaning relationships. Lead

them to places of peace where their spirits are refreshed. Amen.

January 24

## SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

*Go on joyfully and with your heart as open and widely trustful as possible; and if you cannot always be joyful, at least be brave and confident.*

### PRAYER

O God, we honor Francis de Sales as the patron of spiritual friendships. May we experience through his example the power for good flowing from the support we offer to one another. May we be generous in sharing your gift to us that we may come to know you in all your beauty and variety. We ask this through the intercession of Francis and Jane de Chantal, his friend and partner in ministry. Amen.

January 27

## SAINT ANGELA MERICI

*Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.*



## PRAYER

Saint Angela Merici founded the Ursuline community, O God, in order to instruct poor girls in the Christian life. We ask your blessing on those who follow the Ursuline way of life and on us as we seek equality for women in church and society. Through our efforts may all your people come to fullness of life. We ask this through Angela's intercession. Amen.

January 28

## SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

*Draw near to me, you who are uneducated,  
and lodge in the house of instruction.*

## PRAYER

In Thomas Aquinas, O God, you have given us a great learner and teacher — one who pondered your mysteries and passed on his insights to others. Through his intercession we pray for theologians and for others who devote their lives to expanding our knowledge of you. Give them wisdom and perseverance as their faith seeks understanding. We ask this through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

January 28

## SAINT PETER NOLASCO

*Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.*

### PRAYER

Merciful God, Peter Nolasco devoted himself to the ransoming of slaves. In his spirit we pray for all your people who experience personal, social, or political bondage. Through our compassion, support and advocacy may they have the help and courage to free themselves from whatever binds them. May they experience the liberty of living as children of God. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

January 31

## SAINT JOHN BOSCO

*Let the little children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.*

### PRAYER

Saint John Bosco served you, O God, by devoting his life to the education of the young. Through his intercession we pray for teachers

and for all those who guide and influence children. May their efforts create a sustaining environment in which children may grow and explore the world of knowledge. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Teacher. Amen.

February 1

## SAINT BRIGID

*Mary's son, my friend, comes. May we have abundance with him.*

### PRAYER

O God, according to Celtic tradition, the Abbess Brigid was blessed and honored as a bishop. As we celebrate her feast day we pray for all women who devote their energies to building up your kingdom. May the blessings flowing from their ministry enrich our church. With them, may we come to know the joy and power of collaboration. We ask this through Saint Brigid's intercession. Amen.

February 2

## OUR LADY DE LA CANDELARIA

*Blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her would be fulfilled.*

### PRAYER

Through their devotion to Our Lady de la Candelaria, O God, you extend your loving protection to the people of Peru. May their devotion strengthen their faith; may their faith sustain their hope in your promises. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, whom they honor as the mother of Jesus. Amen.

February 3

## OUR LADY OF SUYAPA

*Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

### PRAYER

O God, the people of Honduras claim Our Lady of Suyapa as their patron. May she who bore your Son to the world continue to show them your protection and loving kindness. May all who honor her know your blessing in their lives. We ask this through Mary's intercession. Amen.

February 5

## SAINT AGATHA

*If any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name.*

### PRAYER

For the sake of preserving her chastity, O God, Agatha accepted martyrdom. Inspired by her example, may we accept you as our first and all-encompassing love and give ourselves in love to our companions in community, to those in need and to our families and friends. We ask this in the name of Jesus whose love is our model. Amen.

February 6

## SAINT PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS

*Rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, Saint Paul Miki and his companions followed you in the way of crucifixion, dying

for the sake of the Gospel. May all who suffer persecution for their religious beliefs be strengthened by their example and encouraged to remain steadfast in their faith. We ask this through the intercession of all who have died for the sake of your reign. Amen.

February 10

## SAINT SCHOLASTICA

*A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

### PRAYER

As we celebrate the feast of Saint Scholastica, O God, we pray for those who follow the Benedictine way of life. May the monastic ideals of work and prayer in which their lives are rooted engender in them stability and holiness. Inspired by both Scholastica and Benedict, may they and we carry on the work of building your kingdom. Amen.

February 11

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES

*The Mighty One has done great things for me.  
Holy is God's name.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, your mother showed herself to Bernadette Soubirous in order to call us to conversion and to urge the church to deeper prayer and greater charity toward those who are in need. Mindful of her message, we pray for wisdom and courage that we may heed the prompting of your Spirit and accept conversion to your will. We make this prayer in the name of Mary, your mother. Amen.

March 1

## BLESSED KATHERINE DREXEL

*With clearness and truth, in justice and charity, let us resolve to press on toward the restoration of all things in Christ.*

## PRAYER

Compassionate God, you inspired Katherine Drexel to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to serve Native Americans and African Americans. Through her intercession we ask your protection for all indigenous peoples who have been deprived of their lands or cultures and for all people who have experienced bondage and dislocation. May her spirit encourage us to serve the needy of our day. Amen.

March 7

## SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY

*If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.*

### PRAYER

O God, Perpetua and Felicity endured martyrdom rather than deny their faith in you. Through their intercession we pray for all those places in our world where religious persecution alienates people from one another. May division and prejudice be replaced by respect and peace so that Jesus' prayer for the unity of the human family may be fulfilled. We ask this in his name. Amen.

March 8

## SAINT JOHN OF GOD

*Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was sick and you took care of me.*

### PRAYER

O God, you inspired Saint John to devote his life to the care of the sick. As we celebrate his feast,



we pray for all those in the ministry of health care. May your healing love flow through them, bringing comfort and well-being to your people. We pray also that we may work together to assure that all people have access to basic health services. All this we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

March 15

## SAINT LOUISE DE MARILLAC

*The virtue of cordiality should not stand alone for it is in need of another virtue, which is respect.*

### PRAYER

Merciful God, Louise de Marillac and Vincent de Paul envisioned a new way of serving you by making the world their cloister. The poor and the sick found comfort from their ministry, and religious life was given a new direction. Through their intercession, we ask your blessing for all religious who seek to honor you by serving the members of your body. We ask this confident that you hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

March 17

## SAINT PATRICK

*I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same — the Three in One and One in Three.*

### PRAYER

O God, Patrick led the people of Ireland to faith in you. Inspired by his teaching, may we know and love you in the mystery of the Trinity. Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit, continue to reveal yourself in your infinite variety. Help us to rejoice in the diversity of your creation so that we may come to know you in the fullness of your being. God, three in one, hear and answer our prayer. Amen.

March 19

## SAINT JOSEPH

*An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

## PRAYER

O God, you entrusted the child Jesus to the care of Saint Joseph. We pray, through his intercession, for all those who care for children not their own. Give them welcoming hearts and generous spirits that they may create nurturing environments in which children may thrive. Reward them with the joy of witnessing the effects of their good works. We ask this through Jesus who experienced Joseph's fatherly care. Amen.

March 25

## THE ANNUNCIATION

*The angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."*

## PRAYER

O God, you sent the angel Gabriel to announce to Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. May we be attentive to the signs of your life growing within us and accept our responsibility to bring you to birth in our world. Through our prayer and actions may your people know your mercy from generation to generation. We ask this in Mary's name. Amen.

April 6

BLESSED DIEGO LUIS  
DE SAN VITORES

*Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.*

PRAYER

O God, Blessed Diego was the first among the people in Guam to suffer martyrdom. Through his intercession, strengthen them to face contemporary challenges to their faith and to live courageously according to the values of the gospel. That they will know your presence among them, we pray. Amen.

April 25

SAINT MARK

*I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.*

PRAYER

O God of revelation, through the inspiration of your Spirit, Saint Mark recorded for us the Good News of the life of Jesus. By our prayerful reflection on his words may we come to know you more intimately and respond with

courage to the challenges his message presents. May our lives reflect our understanding of the call to be people of the gospel. Amen.

April 29

## SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

*Love, sweet Love! Open, open up our memory for us, so that we may receive, hold fast, and understand God's great goodness!*

### PRAYER

O God, you gave Catherine of Siena an intense love of the church and the courage to call it to repentance and accountability. May we, with the same love and honesty, encourage one another. Through our mutual prayers and support may we be your people, come to full stature. We ask this through Catherine's intercession. Amen.

May 1

## SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

*All the works of the Lord are good. God will supply every need in its time.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, you learned from Saint Joseph the carpenter's trade and sanctified the work of human hands. We ask your protection of all who labor for their daily bread. Give them satisfaction in their work and keep them free from harm. May their employers compensate them justly, and may all who benefit from their efforts respond with gratitude. We ask this in your name. Amen.

May 3

## SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES

*Jesus appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, you called Philip and James to be among the first to proclaim your message and establish your church. As we celebrate their feast we pray for their successors—the pope, the bishops and the leaders of faith communities. May all be faithful to your gospel, loving in their leadership and courageous in proclaiming the good news. Amen.

May 8

## OUR LADY OF LUJAN

*Blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her would be fulfilled.*

### PRAYER

O God, the people of Argentina claim Our Lady of Lujan as their patron. May she who bore your Son to the world continue to show them your protection and loving kindness. May all who honor her know your blessing in their lives. We ask this through Mary's intercession. Amen.

May 13

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA

*From now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, your mother showed herself to the children at Fatima in order to call us to conversion. Mindful of her message, we pray for wisdom and courage that we may heed the prompting of your Spirit and accept conversion to your will. We ask you to grant this prayer that we may respond to your mother's call. Amen.

May 14

## SAINT MATTHIAS

*They cast lots, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, you called Matthias to be among the first to proclaim your message and establish your church. As we celebrate his feast we pray for their successors — the pope, the bishops and the leaders of faith communities. May all be faithful to your gospel, loving in their leadership and courageous in proclaiming the good news. Amen.

May 26

## SAINT PHILIP NERI

*Holy men of humble heart, bless our God.*

### PRAYER

O God, Philip Neri founded the Oratory to foster Christian life among the young. As we celebrate his feast day we pray for those who follow his way of life in serving the youth of our day. Through their good efforts, may young people come to know and love you and be inspired to live in truth and justice. We ask this through his intercession. Amen.



May 31

## THE VISITATION

*In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.*

### PRAYER

Creator God, Mary and Elizabeth shared with each other the good news of your dramatic intervention in their lives. They found in that exchange the vision for a new world order. Encouraged by their witness, may we reach out to one another with our own stories of God's life within us. In our sharing, may we find joy and hope, courage and clarity. Through us may your kingdom come. Amen.

June 3

## SAINT CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

## PRAYER

O God, Charles and his companions chose martyrdom rather than betray you. In their name we pray for all those who suffer religious persecution. Give them strength to respond to their oppressors with courage and charity. Uphold them in their sufferings and reward them with eternal life. We ask this through Jesus who suffered for our sake. Amen.

June 13

## SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

*O Blessed Mary, you have your Son in common with God.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, Saint Anthony refuted heresy by preaching that you, though divine, became fully human. Through our reflection on this mystery help us to embrace our humanity and to find in our daily lives the opportunity to draw closer to you. May we imitate your example and thus re-create your presence in our world today. We ask this through Anthony's intercession. Amen.

June 21

## SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

*Come, you blessed, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, we honor Aloysius Gonzaga as the patron of Catholic youth. Through his intercession we pray for young people. May they have strong role models in their parents and teachers. As they grow in age may they also grow in wisdom and grace. With you as companion may they come to adulthood confirmed in their identity and in their Christian beliefs. We ask this in your name. Amen.

June 24

## THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

*Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that God had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, John was a voice in the wilderness; you are the Word. John prepared the way; you are the Way. Through his example, may we come to know more clearly the role each of us is to play in your plan of salvation. May we be grateful for our own gifts, using them fully for the building up of your kingdom; may we rejoice when the gifts of others further your designs. We ask this, knowing that you hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

June 27

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

*Blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her would be fulfilled.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, you have given us Mary as Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Through her intercession, we ask your blessing on all those for whom we have promised to pray — the members of our families and our community, our friends and benefactors, those who have entrusted to us their pain and sorrow. Be with each of them and let them know your saving love. We ask this in Mary's name. Amen.

June 29

## SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

*Christ appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.  
Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared  
also to me.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, you called Peter and Paul to be among the first to proclaim your message and establish your church. As we celebrate their feast we pray for their successors — the pope, the bishops and the leaders of faith communities. May all be faithful to your gospel, loving in their leadership and courageous in proclaiming the good news. Amen.

July 3

## SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

*Jesus said to Thomas, “Blessed are those who  
have not seen and yet have come to believe.”*

### PRAYER

Jesus, you called Thomas to be among the first to proclaim your message and establish your church. As we celebrate his feast we pray for their successors — the pope, the bishops and the

leaders of faith communities. May all be faithful to your gospel, loving in their leadership and courageous in proclaiming the good news. Amen.

July 4

## SAINT ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL

*Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.*

### PRAYER

O compassionate God, Saint Elizabeth showed her love for you by her acts of mercy and peace-making. Inspired by her example may we be channels of your generous love to those in need. May we be a healing presence in times of conflict so that your peace and goodness may abound. We ask this through her intercession. Amen.

July 13

## SAINT TERESA DE LOS ANDES

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

### PRAYER

O God, Saint Teresa de los Andes edified the members of her Carmelite community in Chile

through a life of virtue and heroic endurance in suffering. May we, like her, lead lives worthy of our calling and embrace the cross in whatever shape it presents itself in our lives. We ask this through her intercession. Amen.

July 14

## BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA

*There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples, standing before the Lamb.*

### PRAYER

God of all peoples, on this feast of Kateri Tekakwitha we pray especially for the native peoples of the Americas. We ask forgiveness for the persecution and disrespect they have suffered at the hands of those who settled these lands. May we learn to appreciate one another's beliefs and cultures and celebrate the rich diversity among us. We ask this through Kateri's intercession. Amen.

July 14

## SAINT CAMILLUS DE LELLIS

*They brought to Jesus all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, and he cured them.*

### PRAYER

The sick were Saint Camillus's special concern, O healing God. As we celebrate his feast we pray for those in the ministry of health care. Give them compassion and mercy, gentleness and patience. May those who come to them for care know your restoring love. We ask this in the name of Jesus who healed those who were brought to him. Amen.

July 16

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

*Then Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

### PRAYER

O God, the people of Chile claim Our Lady of Mount Carmel as their patron. May she who bore your Son to the world continue to show them your protection and loving kindness. May



all who honor her know your blessing in their lives. We ask this through Mary's intercession. Amen.

July 16

OUR LADY OF  
THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.*

PRAYER

Through their devotion to Our Lady of the Triumph of the Cross, O God, you extend your loving protection to the people of the Philippines. May their devotion strengthen their faith; may their faith sustain their hope in your promises. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Amen.

July 22

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

*Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."*

PRAYER

Jesus, Mary Magdalene experienced your healing and your friendship. We ask for the grace to

know that we, too, are invited to enjoy a special relationship with you. Enable us humbly to receive and fulfill the great mission of announcing your living presence in our world. Amen.

July 25

## SAINT JAMES

*Jesus appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, you called James to be among the first to proclaim your message and establish your church. As we celebrate his feast we pray for their successors — the pope, the bishops and the leaders of faith communities. May all be faithful to your gospel, loving in their leadership and courageous in proclaiming the good news. Amen.

July 26

## SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANN

*Be mindful of your mercy, O God, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.*

## PRAYER

God of our ancestors, you gave to Joachim and Ann the responsibility of being the parents of Mary, the mother of your Son. We honor them by praying for all parents who strive to raise their children with gentleness and love. Give them the blessings they need to create families who grow together in wisdom, age and grace. We ask this through the intercession of Joachim and Ann. Amen.

July 31

## SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

*All for the greater honor and glory of God.*

## PRAYER

O God, I offer you my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will. You have given everything to me, now I return it to you. Everything I have is yours. Dispose of it entirely according to your will. Give me only your love and your grace. They are enough for me; I desire nothing else. Amen.

August 4

## SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

*Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble  
in heart.*

### PRAYER

O God, we honor Saint John Vianney as the patron of parish priests. Through his intercession we pray for all those called to priesthood. May they be generous in their response and know the joy of serving you through their ministry to your people. We ask this through Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

August 6

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

*While Jesus was praying, the appearance  
of his face changed, and his clothes became  
dazzling white.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, through your transfiguration, you taught Peter, James and John the meaning of contemplation and action. Through our reflection on this mystery, may we renew our resolve to seek balance in our lives. May our times of prayer

give us the grace, strength and animation we need for our ministry; may our experiences in ministry draw us back to you in prayer. We ask this in faith. Amen.

August 6

## OUR LADY OF COPACABANA

*Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.*

### PRAYER

O God, the Aymara people claim Our Lady of Copacabana as their patron. May she who bore your Son to the world continue to show them your protection and loving kindness. May they know your blessing in their lives. We ask this through Mary's intercession. Amen.

August 7

## SAINT CAYETANO

*All look to you for food when they hunger; you provide it and they feed. You open your hand and they feast.*

## PRAYER

Provident God, the people of Argentina honor Saint Cayetano as the patron saint of bread and labor. Through his intercession we ask you to watch over your people. Feed the hungry, and give to all who seek work the dignity of employment commensurate with their skills. These needs fulfilled, may justice and peace reign. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

August 11

## SAINT CLARE

*Always be lovers of your souls and those of all your sisters.*

## PRAYER

Gracious God, on this day we celebrate the feast of Clare, the first Franciscan woman, and we pray for the grace to follow the path of your gospel with fidelity and integrity. As we honor her, we ask your blessing on all who follow the Franciscan way of life. May they be faithful to the evangelical calling exemplified for them by Clare and Francis. We ask this through their intercession. Amen.

August 14

## SAINT MAXIMILIAN MARY KOLBE

*By dedicating ourselves to Mary we become in her hands instruments of God's mercy, even as she was such an instrument in God's hands.*

### PRAYER

O God, while captive at Auschwitz, Maximilian offered up his life in place of another prisoner. May his selflessness inspire us each day to be more generous and loving. May we find in each human encounter the opportunity to demonstrate our love for you. We ask this through Mary Immaculate, to whom Maximilian was particularly dedicated. Amen.

August 15

## THE ASSUMPTION

*Use the Common for the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary I or II with this proper.*

*A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.*

## PRAYER

Gracious God, you honored Mary, the mother of Jesus, by translating her, body and soul, into heaven. May we who strive to imitate her life of faithful discipleship be comforted by her assumption and its promise of eternal life with you. She believed that the promises made to her would be fulfilled. We who join her in this confidence, trust that you will hear and answer our prayer. Amen.

August 18

## BLESSED ALBERTO HURTADO

*Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

## PRAYER

Benevolent God, Blessed Alberto spent his life ministering to the street children and the homeless people of Chile and became known as the apostle of your love for the poor. As we celebrate his feast, we pray for all those who serve you in the housing ministry. Through their efforts may all your people find a place of welcome where they can be at home. We ask this through Jesus, who dwelt among us. Amen.



August 23

## SAINT ROSE OF LIMA

*Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.*

### PRAYER

Rose of Lima offered her life to you, Jesus, as a sacrifice for the suffering poor. May we whom you have graciously permitted to minister to those who are poor in our day have our hearts animated with gratitude and love. May we place all our confidence in you and endeavor to imitate you more perfectly each day. We ask this, as a community called to service. Amen.

August 24

## SAINT BARTHOLOMEW

*Jesus appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, you called Bartholomew to be among the first to proclaim your message and establish your church. As we celebrate his feast we pray for their successors — the pope, the bishops and

the leaders of faith communities. May all be faithful to your gospel, loving in their leadership and courageous in proclaiming the good news. Amen.

August 25

## SAINT JOSEPH CALASANZ

*Tend the flock of God that is in your charge as God would have you do it.*

### PRAYER

O God, Saint Joseph dedicated himself to the education of poor boys. As we celebrate his feast, we pray for those called to the ministry of education. May they animate their zeal and fervor by the example of Jesus who testified on all occasions a tender love for those who are poor and declared that he would consider as done for himself whatever was done for them. We ask this through Joseph's intercession. Amen.

August 27

## SAINT MONICA

*Her children rise up and call her happy.*

## PRAYER

Gentle Jesus, through the intercession of Saint Monica we pray for all mothers who suffer anguish for their children. Give them Monica's faith, perseverance and trust in the power of prayer. Bless them with the grace to be a steady, loving presence in the lives of their children. We ask this through the intercession of your own sorrowful mother. Amen.

August 28

## SAINT AUGUSTINE

*The life of a Christian is in fact an exercise of holy desire.*

## PRAYER

O God, you gave Augustine the grace to turn from a life of sin and to seek you as his only good. Through his sermons and writings he taught the people given to his care and refuted the heresies of his day. Inspired by his example, may we experience the gift of our intellect as a way of knowing you and plumbing your mysteries. Lead our faith to understanding. We ask this through Jesus, your Word. Amen.

LAST SUNDAY OF AUGUST  
DAY OF PRAYER  
FOR THE NATIVE PEOPLES  
OF THE AMERICAS

*There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples, standing before the Lamb.*

PRAYER

God of all nations, we pray today for indigenous peoples. We ask your forgiveness for the mistreatment and exploitation they have experienced at our hands. Lead us now to policies which will restore their right to live on their ancestral lands in peace and dignity. Help us to seek their ancient wisdom and appreciate the gift of their culture to our human experience. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 8  
BIRTH OF MARY

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

PRAYER

Saving God, the birth of Mary heralded a new day for your people—a day when the redemption

you had promised began to become a reality. We thank you for the witness of her unhesitating and generous response to your plan for our salvation. May we, like her, be ready and eager to respond when you call. We ask this through her, Jesus' mother and first disciple. Amen.

September 9

## PETER CLAVER

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*

### PRAYER

God of all peoples, we honor Saint Peter Claver as the patron of all missions to black peoples. Through his intercession, we pray for an end to racism and to all barriers that separate us from our sisters and brothers. May we all be one in you. We ask this through Jesus, our brother. Amen.

September 14

## TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

*Our congregation is founded on Calvary, there to serve a crucified Redeemer.*

## PRAYER

Saving God, the cross of Jesus has become the sign of our salvation. We ask for the grace to accept our portion of his suffering in any form or shape you please. By uniting our sorrows to his, may we flourish in the very midst of the cross. We ask this through Jesus, who died for our sake. Amen.

September 15

## OUR LADY OF SORROWS

*This child is destined to be a sign that will be opposed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, as your mother stood beneath the cross the words of Simeon were fulfilled and her heart was pierced with sorrow. We pray on this day for all women who experience the death of a child. Help them to bear this suffering with courage. Give them hope in the promise of resurrection that you hold out to all your children. We ask this grace through the intercession of Mary, the mother of sorrows. Amen.

September 15

SAINT CATHERINE OF GENOA

*Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you  
from the foundation of the world; for I was sick  
and you took care of me.*

PRAYER

Healing God, Catherine served your suffering sick as a nurse and hospital administrator. We honor her as we pray for all those who bear similar responsibilities in our day. We thank you for the gift of mystical prayer she experienced, and ask that the grace of union with you in prayer may be ours as well. We make this prayer in confidence, for you have called us to be one in you. Amen.

September 20

SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEGŎN,  
PAUL CHŎNG HASANG  
AND COMPANIONS

*The Lord is like a farmer, and we are the field  
of rice that he fertilizes with his grace, in order  
that we will grow and reach maturity.*

PRAYER

O God, through the martyrdom of Andrew,  
Paul and their companions you nurtured the

faith of the Korean church. May all who suffer persecution for their religious beliefs be strengthened by their example. We ask this through the intercession of all those who have died for the sake of your reign. Amen.

September 21

## SAINT MATTHEW

*I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.*

### PRAYER

O God of revelation, through the inspiration of your Spirit, Saint Matthew recorded for us the Good News of the life of Jesus. By our prayerful reflection on his words may we come to know you more intimately and respond with courage to the challenges his message presents. May our lives reflect our understanding of the call to be people of the gospel. Amen.

September 24

## OUR LADY OF MERCY

*Use the Common of Mercy Feasts I or II and Proper Intercessions.*



September 27

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

*It is into hearts who seek God alone that God pleases to pour forth the most excellent lights and greatest graces.*

PRAYER

Merciful God, Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac envisioned a new way of serving you by making the world their cloister. The poor and the sick found comfort from their ministry, and religious life was given a new direction. Through their intercession, we ask your blessing for all religious who seek to honor you by serving the members of your body. We ask this, confident that you hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

September 28

SAINT LORENZO RUIZ

*The Lord Jesus by his blood truly redeemed his servants, gathered from every race, tongue, people and nation, to make them a royal priesthood for our God.*

PRAYER

Saving God, Lorenzo Ruiz left his home in the Philippines to bring the good news of salvation

to the people of Japan. There he suffered martyrdom for the sake of the gospel. As we celebrate his feast we pray for all who suffer persecution for their religious beliefs. May they be strengthened by his example. We ask this through the intercession of all those who have died for the sake of your reign. Amen.

September 29  
BIRTHDAY OF  
CATHERINE MCAULEY

*Use the Common of Mercy Feasts I or II.*

September 29  
MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND  
RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

*God's angel defends the faithful, guarding them on every side.*

PRAYER

O God, you have created the angels to be your messengers and the guardians of your people. We pray for the grace to be attentive to your inspirations and to the subtle manifestations of your presence. May your angels watch over us, protecting us in all our ways. We ask this in faith. Amen.

October 1  
SAINT THÉRÈSE OF  
THE CHILD JESUS

*I would be a missionary, not for a few years only, but from the beginning of creation until the consummation of the ages.*

PRAYER

God of all peoples, because of her immense desire to proclaim the gospel, we honor Thérèse as the patron saint of missionaries. She believed the purpose of her life was to love Jesus and to make him loved. Through her intercession we pray for all who have left home and country to make you known and loved throughout the world. Bless them with strength for their ministry and the assurance of your love. We ask this in faith. Amen.

October 2  
GUARDIAN ANGELS

*God's angel defends the faithful, guarding them on every side.*

PRAYER

O God, you have created the angels to be your messengers and the guardians of your

people. We pray for the grace to be attentive to your inspirations and to the subtle manifestations of your presence. May your angels watch over us, protecting us in all our ways. We ask this in faith. Amen.

October 4

## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

*Preach the gospel at all times; if necessary use words.*

### PRAYER

O God, you called Francis to a great love for Lady Poverty and for all the creatures of the earth. On his feast day, we pray for the grace to follow Jesus who became poor for our sake and to trust in your divine providence. May we strive for unity of mind and heart in sharing whatever we have. We pray also to value the resources of the earth as gifts from you. We ask this in faith. Amen.

October 7

## OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.*

## PRAYER

Jesus, through the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, you invite us to reflect on the mysteries of your life. May your words and deeds become the pattern for our lives and may we grow in our appreciation for your life among us. We pray especially today for the people of Guatemala who celebrate this day as their patronal feast. Through the intercession of your mother may they come to a deeper love for you. Amen.

October 15

## SAINT TERESA OF AVILA

*Let us desire to be occupied in prayer not for the sake of our enjoyment but so as to have the strength to serve.*

## PRAYER

O God, you raised up Teresa to reform the Carmelite Order and to show us the way of contemplative prayer. With her we pray for one all-possessing love, a soul centered in you. May we know you as the loving source from whom alone we go forward or stay back. We ask this, as a community called to love. Amen.

October 18

## SAINT LUKE

*I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.*

### PRAYER

O God of revelation, through the inspiration of your Spirit, Saint Luke recorded for us the Good News of the life of Jesus. By our prayerful reflection on his words may we come to know you more intimately and respond with courage to the challenges his message presents. May our lives reflect our understanding of the call to be people of the gospel. Amen.

October 28

## SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

*Jesus appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, you called Simon and Jude to be among the first to proclaim your message and establish your church. As we celebrate their feast we pray for their successors—the pope, the bishops

and the leaders of faith communities. May all be faithful to your gospel, loving in their leadership and courageous in proclaiming the good news. Amen.

November 1

## ALL SAINTS

*Use the Common of Holy Women and Men.*

*These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

### PRAYER

Today we praise you, O God, for all those who have gone before us and who now rejoice in your presence — holy men and women of every time and place. We remember especially the members of our own families and community who are in your presence. May this great cloud of witnesses support and encourage us as we make our way to you, and may we, one day, be united in the communion of saints. We ask this in anticipation of that day. Amen.

November 2  
ALL SOULS

*Use the Office for the Dead.*

*As a deer craves running water, I thirst for you,  
my God. When will I see your face?*

PRAYER

We pray today, O saving God, for all those who have departed this life in the hope of your promised resurrection, especially the members of our families and our community who have died in the past year. Forgive them their sins and failings for they tried to walk in your way and longed to see you face to face, in the presence of all your saints. We ask this through Jesus, whom you raised from the dead. Amen.

November 3  
SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES

*Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the  
least of these who are members of my family,  
you did it to me.*

PRAYER

Compassionate God, Martin was recognized in his lifetime as a friend of those enduring



poverty and illness. Through his example may we respond in mercy when confronted with another's sorrow. Give us hearts warmed by your love and strengthened by your justice that we may address the causes of suffering in our world. We ask this, as a community called to service. Amen.

November 11

## DEATH OF CATHERINE MCAULEY

*Use Common for Mercy Feasts I or II and Proper Intercessions.*

November 13

## SAINT FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

*Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

### PRAYER

God of our journey, we honor Frances Xavier Cabrini as the patron of immigrants. Through her intercession, we pray for all those who seek a new life in a new homeland. May they experience welcome; may their gifts and beliefs be respected; may they find security through

employment. We ask this through the intercession of Frances. Amen.

November 17

## SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

*She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.*

### PRAYER

Merciful Jesus, Elizabeth recognized you in the faces of those who were poor and sick, and she used her resources to comfort and assist them. May we, like her, commit ourselves to follow you in your compassion for suffering people. Give us the energy to serve those in need and to advocate for the systemic changes that will lessen their suffering. We ask this, as a community called to service. Amen.

November 19

## OUR LADY, MOTHER OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

*Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.*

## PRAYER

O God, through their devotion to Our Lady, Mother of Divine Providence, you extend your loving protection to the people of Puerto Rico. May their devotion strengthen their faith; may their faith sustain their hope in your promises. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Amen.

November 21

## PRESENTATION OF MARY

*Enter the temple gates, the courtyard with praise; give thanks and bless God's name.*

## PRAYER

We commemorate, O God, the day when Ann and Joachim presented Mary in the temple. We pray for parents who bear the responsibility of incorporating their children into your body, the church. May their own faith be strengthened in this process, and may the life of each family reflect your trinitarian love. May Christian homes reveal the unity and peace to which you call us. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

November 22

## SAINT CECILIA

*I will thank you, O God, for your true friendship. I will sing of how you saved me.*

### PRAYER

Creator God, today we celebrate the feast of Saint Cecilia. We thank you for dancers, musicians, painters, sculptors, poets, conductors, composers, actors, dramatists and all who enhance our lives through the arts. Enriched by the sharing of their gifts, may we come to know your creative energy alive within us. Lift up our hearts to you, and we will sing your praises, now and forever. Amen.

November 23

## BLESSED MIGUEL AUSTIN PRO

*If any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name.*

### PRAYER

O God, Blessed Miguel carried out his priestly ministry in secret, but the zeal of his love for you could not be contained, and he endured

martyrdom rather than deprive the Mexican people of the opportunity to know and worship you. May all who suffer persecution for their religious beliefs be strengthened by his example. We ask this through the intercession of all those who have died for the sake of the gospel. Amen.

November 30

## SAINT ANDREW

*Jesus appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message.*

### PRAYER

Jesus, you called Andrew to be among the first to proclaim your message and to establish your church. As we celebrate his feast we pray for their successors — the pope, the bishops and the leaders of faith communities. May all be faithful to your gospel, loving in their leadership and courageous in proclaiming the good news. Amen.

December 3

## SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth.*

## PRAYER

On this feast of Saint Francis Xavier, O God, we pray for all who have left home and country to make you known and loved throughout the world. Bless them with strength for their ministry and the assurance of your love. We pray especially for the people of India and Japan among whom Francis Xavier ministered. May they honor and serve you. We ask this in faith. Amen.

December 6

## SAINT NICHOLAS

*Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts.*

## PRAYER

Gracious God, in commemorating Saint Nicholas we honor his generous love for your people. May we be inspired by his example to pursue a similar generosity, seeking the happiness of others in the sharing of spiritual and material goods. We ask this, as a community called to love. Amen.

December 8

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Use the Common for the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary I or II.*

*The Mighty One has done great things for me.  
Holy is God's name.*

### PRAYER

O God, you prepared Mary to be the mother of your Son by preserving her from sin. Through your grace, prepare us also to bring Jesus to birth in our day. May our words and acts of mercy reveal your presence among your people, reminding them of your promise to be with them all days. We pray also today for the Catholic people of the United States who claim Mary in her Immaculate Conception as their patron. Amen.

December 12

## FOUNDATION DAY OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY (1831)

## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

*Use the Common for the Feasts of the Sisters of Mercy I or II.*

December 13

SAINT LUCY

*Rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.*


PRAYER

God of light, through the intercession of the martyr Saint Lucy we pray for those who suffer from afflictions of the eyes. Quicken within them an inner sight. Allow them to perceive those hidden things which eye has not seen. Give us a lively sense of gratitude for the vision we have, and for the beauty and variety of the world you have created. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



# COMMONS

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Our center is God, from which all our  
actions spring as from their source.

M. & M. Auley

# FEASTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY I



## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

### GREETING

Blessed is she who believed,  
for God has done great things for her.  
Mary, Mother of Mercy,  
be with us as we pray.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 138

*With all my heart I praise you, O God. I thank you with  
all I am.*

I thank you with all I am,  
I join heaven's chorus.  
I bow toward your holy temple,  
to praise your name.

By your love and fidelity,  
you display to all  
the glory of your name and promise.  
As soon as I call, you act,  
renewing my strength.

Around the world,  
rulers praise you  
for your commanding word.  
They sing of your ways,  
“Great is your glory, Lord.”

Though high up,  
you see the lowly;  
though far away,  
you keep an eye on the proud.

When I face an opponent,  
you keep me alive.  
You reach out your hand,  
your right hand saves me.

Lord, take up my cause,  
your love lasts for ever.  
Do not abandon  
what your hands have made.

## 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

*Holy are you, O God! You are the source of my strength.*

I acclaim the Lord's greatness,  
source of my strength.  
I devour my foe,  
I say to God with joy:  
"You saved my life.  
Only you are holy, Lord;  
there is none but you,  
no other rock like you."

God knows when deeds match words,  
so make no arrogant claims.  
The weapons of the strong are broken,  
the defenseless gain strength.  
The overfed now toil to eat,  
while the hungry have their fill.

The childless bear many children,  
but the fertile learn they are sterile.  
The Lord commands death and life,  
consigns to Sheol or raises up.

God deals out poverty and wealth,  
casts down and lifts up,  
raising the poor from squalor,  
the needy from the trash heap,  
to sit with the high and mighty,  
taking their places of honor.

God owns the universe  
and sets the earth within it.  
God walks with the faithful  
but silences the wicked in darkness;  
their power does not prevail.

God's enemies will be broken,  
heaven thunders against them.  
The Lord will judge the earth,  
and give power to the king,  
victory to the anointed.

## READING

### *Zechariah 2:10 – 11*

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Blessed is she who has believed. Blessed be God for the loving kindness shown to her.*

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*God, wonderful in power, has used that strength for me.  
Holy is God's name.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Jesus, Mary loved you with fidelity and tenderness. May we learn from her how to deepen our love for you.

Mary, mother of the poor:

~ *Help us to hear the cry of God's people.*

Mary, refuge of the outcast:

~ *Help us to welcome those rejected by the powerful in society.*

Mary, witness to faith:

~ *Help us to enter fully into your son's mission.*

Mary, woman of prayer:

~ *Help us to receive God's word and act upon it.*

Mary, mother of sorrows:

~ *Help us to walk with those who are afflicted and dying.*

Mary, mother of all peoples:

~ *Help us to be sisters and brothers to one another.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Jesus, you gave us Mary to be our mother and model. Help us to learn from her the way of faithful love, patient waiting, trust in times of confusion and heartfelt compassion for the

sufferings of others. May we learn to say with Mary: “Here I am. Let it be with me according to your word.” Amen.

### BLESSING

Bless us, O God, with wonder at your mercy.

*Amen.*

Bless us with gratitude for your generosity.

*Amen.*

Bless us with love for you and your mother Mary. *Amen.*



# FEASTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY II



## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

### GREETING

Spirit of the living God,  
come fill us with your wisdom.  
Mary, woman of the word,  
teach us to listen with open hearts.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 45

*A great song fills my heart. I will sing in praise of my  
God.*

A great song fills my heart,  
I will recite it to the king,  
my tongue as skilled as the scribal pen.

Unrivaled in beauty,  
gracious in speech—  
how God has blessed you!

Hero, take up your sword,  
majestic in your armor.  
Ride on for truth,  
show justice to the poor,  
wield your power boldly.

Your weapons are ready;  
nations fall beneath your might,  
your enemies lose heart.

Your throne is as lasting  
as the everlasting God.  
Integrity is the law of your land.

Because you love justice and hate evil,  
God, your God, anoints you  
above your peers with festive oil.

Your clothes are fragrant  
with myrrh and aloes  
and cinnamon flowers.  
Music of strings welcomes you  
to the ivory palace  
and lifts your heart.

Royal women honor you.  
On your right hand the queen,  
wearing gold of Ophir.

Mark these words, daughter:  
leave your family behind,  
forget your father's house.

The king desires your beauty.  
He is your lord.  
Tyre comes with gifts,  
the wealthy honor you.

The robes of the queen  
are embroidered with gold.  
In brilliant attire  
she is led to the king;  
her attendants follow.  
In high spirits  
they enter the royal palace.

Your sons will inherit  
the throne your fathers held.  
They shall reign throughout the land.  
Every age will recall your name.  
This song will fix it in their memory.

**ISAIAH 66:10-14a**

*As a child nestles in the arms of its mother, I rest in you,  
my God.*

Rejoice with Jerusalem!  
Be glad for her,  
all who love her.  
Share her great joy,  
all who know her sadness.

Now drink your fill  
from her comforting breast,  
enjoy her plentiful milk.

For this is what the Lord says:  
“Look! to her I extend  
peace like a river,  
the wealth of the nations  
like a stream in full flood.  
And you will drink!

I will carry you on my shoulders,  
cuddle you on my lap.  
I will comfort you  
as a mother nurses her child.

“Jerusalem will be your joy.  
Your heart will rejoice to see it.  
You will flourish like grass in spring.”

## READING

### *Isaiah 7:10 – 14*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*His mother treasured all these things in her heart.*

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, you have given us Mary to be the model of the contemplation and action that are at the heart of our vocation to Mercy. May we learn from her the way of faithfulness.

Mary, you were blessed in your humility:

*~ May we also seek to be servants of  
God's people.*

Mary, you journeyed to Elizabeth in her time of joy and expectation:

*~ May we have a tender care for all women  
awaiting the birth of their children.*

Mary, you pondered all things in your heart:

*~ May we learn to see the face of God in  
our experience.*

Mary, you saw the needs of the bridal couple at Cana:

*~ May we never be blind to the needs of the persons  
around us.*

Mary, you felt the pain of seeing your child rejected and killed:

~ *May we share the pain of mothers who see their children die through violence or hunger.*

Mary, you placed your trust in God even when you did not understand:

~ *May we have confidence in the saving providence of God, even in times of darkness or confusion.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of mercy and compassion, fill us with the same spirit of obedience and love that filled the heart of Mary. Through her intercession may we be people of mercy and justice. Mary placed her trust in you, and all creation rejoiced in the birth of its Savior, Jesus Christ. Give us the confidence in you that will sustain us and give us life. May your desires come to fulfillment in us. Amen.

### BLESSING

Bless us, O God, with faith. *Amen.*

Bless us, O God, with mercy. *Amen.*

Bless us, O God, with the energy and vision of the gospel. *Amen.*

# FEASTS OF HOLY WOMEN



## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 45:3, 7-16, 18

*With joy I heard them say, "Let us go to the Lord's house!"*

Unrivaled in beauty,  
gracious in speech—  
how God has blessed you!

Your throne is as lasting  
as the everlasting God.  
Integrity is the law of your land.

Because you love justice and hate evil,  
God, your God, anoints you  
above your peers with festive oil.

Your clothes are fragrant  
with myrrh and aloes  
and cinnamon flowers.  
Music of strings welcomes you  
to the ivory palace  
and lifts your heart.

Royal women honor you.  
On your right hand the queen,  
wearing gold of Ophir.

Mark these words, daughter:  
leave your family behind,  
forget your father's house.

The king desires your beauty.  
He is your lord.  
Tyre comes with gifts,  
the wealthy honor you.

The robes of the queen  
are embroidered with gold.  
In brilliant attire  
she is led to the king;  
her attendants follow.  
In high spirits  
they enter the royal palace.

Every age will recall your name.  
This song will fix it in their memory.

## READING

### *Isaiah 61:10 – 11; 62:4 – 5*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole  
being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed  
me with the garments of salvation, he has  
covered me with the robe of righteousness,



as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a  
garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and  
praise to spring up before all the nations.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
and your land Married; for the Lord delights in  
you, and your land shall be married. For as a  
young man marries a young woman, so shall  
your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom  
rejoices over the bride, so shall your God  
rejoice over you.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*These are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it  
fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with  
patient endurance.*

### INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, through your power and grace  
women of all times have been called to witness  
to your mercy and love.

Like Ruth, Esther, Miriam and all the holy women of Israel:

~ *May we believe in your power to save.*

Like holy women who risked their lives and reputations to serve your suffering poor:

~ *May we place ourselves at the service of those who cry out for mercy.*

Like holy women throughout time who sought their rightful place in church and society:

~ *May we work for equality for women in all areas of human life.*

Like holy women, mothers, sisters, martyrs and mystics:

~ *May we be teachers of prayer and examples of gospel love.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST

BLESSING

# FEASTS OF HOLY MEN



## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

### GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 34:1-21

*Turn to God, be bright with joy; you shall never be let down.*

I will never stop thanking God,  
with constant words of praise.  
My soul will boast of God;  
the poor will hear me and be glad.

Join me in praising the Lord,  
together tell of God's name.  
I asked and the Lord responded,  
freed me from all my fears.

Turn to God, be bright with joy;  
you shall never be let down.  
I begged and God heard,  
took my burdens from me.

God's angel defends the faithful,  
guards them on every side.  
Drink in the richness of God,  
enjoy the strength of the Lord.

Live in awe of God, you saints:  
you will want for nothing.  
Even if lions go hungry,  
those seeking God are fed.

Come to me, children, listen:  
learn to cherish the Lord.  
Do you long for life,  
for time to enjoy success?

Keep your tongue from evil,  
keep lies far from your lips.  
Shun evil, go after good,  
press on, seek after peace.

God confronts the wicked  
to blot them out for ever,  
but turns toward the just  
to hear their cry for help.

The troubled call out; God hears,  
saves them from all distress.  
God stays near broken hearts,  
heals the wounded spirit.

The good endure great trials,  
but God comes to their rescue  
and guards their every bone  
so not one is broken.

## READING

### *Revelation 14:12 – 13*

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.”

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Blessed are those who give their hearts to God.*

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Those who walk the path of justice and mercy follow in the way of Jesus.*

## INTERCESSIONS

God of justice, you have given us generous witnesses to your love and mercy. Through their example may we be inspired to love and serve you more ardently.

Holy men of all time have proclaimed your Good News in word and deed:

*~ May we give voice to the Spirit speaking within us.*

Holy men, fathers, brothers, priests and prophets, have been called throughout history to act as reconcilers and servant ministers among your people:

*~ May the memory of their dedication enable us to act as healers and builders of justice in our world.*

Enabled by the gifts of God's Spirit, holy men have guided, taught, and healed your church in all ages:

*~ May we reverence all Christians' call to service and empower them to use their gifts to further the reign of God.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST

BLESSING

# FEASTS OF HOLY WOMEN AND MEN



## EVENING PRAYER I

### GREETING

Sing out a song of praise, O children of God.  
Let our voices join the choir of saints  
singing, Holy, Holy!  
Worthy is the Christ who was slain.  
Holy and blessed are those who follow the  
Lamb, Alleluia!

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 145

*Saints in glory sing to our God who saves.*

I will exalt you, God my king,  
for ever bless your name.  
I will bless you every day,  
for ever praise your name.

Great is the Lord, highly to be praised,  
great beyond our reach.

Age to age proclaims your works,  
recounts your mighty deeds.  
I ponder your splendor and glory  
and all your wonderful works.

They reveal your fearful power,  
I tell of your great deeds.  
They recall your ample goodness,  
joyfully sing your justice.

Gracious and merciful is the Lord,  
slow to anger, full of love.  
The Lord is good in every way,  
merciful to every creature.

Let your works praise you, Lord,  
your faithful ones bless you.  
Let them proclaim your glorious reign,  
let them tell of your might.

Let them make known to all  
your might and glorious reign.  
Your dominion lasts for ever,  
your rule for all generations!

The Lord is faithful in every word  
and gracious in every work.  
The Lord supports the fallen,  
raises those bowed down.



The eyes of all look to you,  
you give them food in due time.  
You open wide your hand  
to feed all living things.

The Lord is just in every way,  
loving in every deed.  
The Lord is near to those who call,  
who cry out from their hearts.

God grants them their desires,  
hears their cry and saves them.  
Those who love God are kept alive;  
the wicked, the Lord destroys.

I will sing the Lord's praise,  
let all flesh bless God's Name,  
holy, both now and for ever.

### DANIEL 3:52-57

*Come, to our aid, O saints of God. Come to meet us on  
our journey.*

Blest are you, God of our ancestors,  
praised and lifted above all for ever!  
Blest your holy name, full of wonder,  
praised and lifted above all for ever!

Blest are you in your temple of glory,  
acclaimed and honored for ever.  
Blest are you who see the depths  
from the cherubim throne,  
praised and lifted above all for ever!

Blest are you enthroned in majesty,  
praised and lifted above all for ever!  
Blest are you beyond the stars,  
acclaimed and honored for ever!

All you creatures, bless our God,  
acclaimed and exalted for ever!

## READING

### *Revelation 7:9 – 10*

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving  
be to our God! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## INTERCESSIONS

God of all nations and peoples, holy ones of every age have given you the offering of their lives. We, too, long to live in the way of holiness and justice. Join our love with theirs, as we place our prayers before you.

Holy martyrs of God:

*~ Intercede for all who are enduring persecution for  
the sake of the gospel.*

Holy virgins of God:

*~ Intercede for all who suffer from sexual  
exploitation or bodily attack.*

Holy confessors of God:

*~ Intercede for all who are called to profess their  
faith through teaching or writing.*

Holy women of God:

*~ Intercede for all women seeking the fullness of  
dignity and equality in church  
and society.*

Holy men of God:

*~ Intercede for all men seeking to live and serve as  
Jesus did.*

Holy prophets of God:

~ *Intercede for all who are called to challenge unjust structures of political and economic life.*

Holy women of mercy:

~ *Intercede for all sisters and associates of Mercy that we may be vibrant witnesses to the compassion and love of God.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Gracious God, it is right and fitting to praise you. You have blessed us with models of holiness showing us the way of discipleship. Through their intercession bring all your people together in peace and unity. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

Praise to our God who saves. *Amen.*

Honor to our God who saves. *Amen.*

Glory to our God who saves. *Amen.*

## MORNING PRAYER



### GREETING

Sing out a song of praise, O children of God.  
Let our voices join the choir of saints  
singing, Holy, Holy!  
Worthy is the Christ who was slain.  
Holy and blessed are those who follow the  
Lamb, Alleluia!

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 113

*Servants of God, praise, praise the God of all peoples and nations.*

Servants of God, praise,  
praise the name of the Lord.  
Bless the Lord's name  
now and always.  
Praise the Lord's name  
here and in every place,  
from east to west.

The Lord towers above nations,  
God's glory shines over the heavens.  
Who compares to our God?  
Who is enthroned so high?

The Lord bends down  
to see heaven and earth,  
to raise the weak from the dust  
and lift the poor from the mire,  
to seat them with princes  
in the company of their leaders.

The childless, no longer alone,  
rejoice now in many children.

Hallelujah!

#### REVELATION 19:1-7

*God will bless all believers, the small and  
the great.*

Alleluia!  
Salvation, glory and power to God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Right and sure, the judgments of God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia!  
Praise our God, you faithful servants!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
In awe praise God, you small and great!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia!  
The Lord God almighty rules!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Be glad, rejoice, give glory to God!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia!  
The wedding feast of the Lamb begins.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
The bride is radiant, clothed in glory.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

## READING

### *Revelation 7:14b – 17*

These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*These are they who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Holy God, people of every nation on earth have offered you their lives in service. Age after age your glory has been revealed through their deeds of justice and mercy. May we learn how to serve you through the witness of their lives, and may we be strengthened by the power of their intercession. In trust we pray.

Saints of Asia, intercede for us:

*~ That the seed of faith planted in your land may bring forth a rich harvest.*

Saints of Africa, intercede for us:

*~ That the gifts of your peoples may enrich the faith of the whole church.*

Saints of Eastern Europe, intercede for us:

*~ That the witness of your faith in the midst of persecution may strengthen us in times of trial.*

Saints of Western Europe, intercede for us:

*~ That we may treasure the heritage of Christian tradition passed on to us by your peoples.*



Saints of the Eastern churches, intercede for us:

~ *That the gift of your reverence for the holy may inspire us to devotion and mindfulness.*

Saints of North America, intercede for us:

~ *That we may learn from you how to stand before the world as witnesses to God's love.*

Saints of Central and South America, intercede for us:

~ *That we may learn from you how to walk with the poor.*

Saints of the Pacific Rim, intercede for us:

~ *That we may learn from you to celebrate our union with one another in Christ.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

Gracious God, it is right and fitting to praise you. You have blessed us with models of holiness showing us the way of discipleship. Through their intercession bring all your people together in peace and unity. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### BLESSING

Praise to our God who saves. *Amen.*

Honor to our God who saves. *Amen.*

Glory to our God who saves. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER II



### GREETING

Sing out a song of praise, O children of God.  
Let our voices join the choir of saints  
singing, Holy, Holy!  
Worthy is the Christ who was slain.  
Holy and blessed are those who follow the  
Lamb, Alleluia!

### DOXOLOGY

#### PSALM 86

*Every nation you formed will come to worship and honor  
your name.*

Hear me, Lord, and act,  
I am poor and helpless.  
You are my God,  
watch over me,  
for I am loyal to you.  
Save me, your servant,  
for I trust you.

Each waking hour  
I beg your mercy, Lord.  
Bring joy to me, your servant,  
I offer myself to you.  
You are good and forgiving,  
loyal to all who call on you.

Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
answer my cry for help.  
In my despair I plead,  
knowing you will act.  
No god can match you, Lord,  
you outdo all others.

Every nation you formed  
will come to worship  
and honor your name.  
You are mighty  
and work great wonders.  
You alone are God!

Mark your path, Lord,  
that I may follow your truth.  
Make my one desire  
to revere your name.

With all I am, I thank you, God,  
and honor your name for ever.  
Your love for me is great,  
it saves me from the grave.

The proud rise against me,  
brutal gangs seek my life,  
with no thought of you.  
But you are Lord of mercy and care,  
a God slow to anger,  
full of loyalty and love.

Turn to me, pity me,  
strengthen your daughter's child,  
rescue your servant.  
Show me a sign of your love  
to shock and disgrace my enemy.  
Bring help and comfort, Lord.

### COLOSSIANS 1:12-20

*Everything was created through Christ and  
for Christ.*

Give thanks to the Father,  
who made us fit  
for the holy community of light  
and rescued us from darkness,  
bringing us into the realm  
of his beloved Son  
who redeemed us,  
forgiving our sins.

Christ is an image  
of the God we cannot see.  
Christ is firstborn in all creation.

Through Christ the universe was made,  
things seen and unseen,  
thrones, authorities, forces, powers.  
Everything was created  
through Christ and for Christ.

Before anything came to be, Christ was,  
and the universe is held together by Christ.

Christ is also head of the body, the church,  
its beginning as firstborn from the dead  
to become in all things first.

For by God's good pleasure  
Christ encompasses  
the full measure of power,  
reconciling creation with its source  
and making peace by the blood of the cross.

## READING

### *2 Samuel 22:17 – 20*

God reached from on high and took me and  
drew me out of mighty waters. He delivered me  
from my strong enemy, from those who hated  
me; for they were too mighty for me. They  
came upon me in the day of my calamity, but  
the Lord was my stay. He brought me out  
into a broad place and delivered me, because  
he delighted in me.

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*The Holy One has taken delight in me.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Holy God, you are our stay in times of trouble.  
Draw near to us now, as you drew near to  
your saints. Be with us as we pray.

For all mothers and fathers teaching their children the way of your truth:

*~ May they be strengthened in their efforts to live a Christian family life.*

For all women religious seeking to live in the pattern of Jesus:

*~ May they be filled with the power of your Spirit.*

For all brothers, priests and bishops dedicating their lives to service:

*~ May their words and actions reveal the face of your mercy.*

For all lay ministers offering their gifts for the building up of Christ's body:

*~ May they be empowered to embrace their baptismal call to mission.*

For all persons discerning a call to religious life:

*~ May they be invited to "come and see" and be supported in their journey.*

For all Sisters of Mercy throughout the world:

*~ May we draw inspiration and courage from the lives of our departed sisters.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER AND BLESSING AS IN MORNING PRAYER

# FEASTS OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY I



## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

### GREETING

Rain down your love upon us, O God of Mercy.  
Fill us with the spirit of compassion and justice.  
Guide us to merciful ways,  
and empower us to sing your praise.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 146

*As Sisters of Mercy we commit ourselves to follow Jesus  
Christ in his compassion for suffering people.*

Praise the Lord, my heart!  
My whole life, give praise.  
Let me sing to God  
as long as I live.

Never depend on rulers:  
born of earth, they cannot save.  
They die, they turn to dust.  
That day, their plans crumble.

They are wise who depend on God,  
who look to Jacob's Lord,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
maker of the teeming sea.

The Lord keeps faith for ever,  
giving food to the hungry,  
justice to the poor,  
freedom to captives.

The Lord opens blind eyes  
and straightens the bent,  
comforting widows and orphans,  
protecting the stranger.  
The Lord loves the just  
but blocks the path of the wicked.

Zion, praise the Lord!  
Your God reigns for ever,  
from generation to generation.  
Hallelujah!

**ISAIAH 26:1–4, 7–9, 12**

*Our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in  
God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back.*

—  
Our city is strong,  
its ramparts and walls  
are God's saving work.  
Throw open the gates



to a just nation,  
one that keeps faith.

You guard the faithful in peace,  
they fix their hearts on you.  
Trust in the Lord always,  
our enduring rock.

For the just you make the road  
level, smooth, and straight.  
We walk the road you cut,  
looking for you, O Lord.  
We seek to honor your name.

I long for you by night,  
my whole being yearns for you.  
For by your judgments  
the world learns justice.  
Our peace is your gift, Lord,  
our good deeds your work.

---

## READING

### *Romans 12:1 – 2*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,  
by the mercies of God, to present your bodies  
as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,  
which is your spiritual worship. Do not be  
conformed to this world, but be transformed by  
the renewing of your minds, so that you may

discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

### CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*Enriched by Christ's love, healed by his mercy and taught by his word, we serve the poor, sick and ignorant.*

### CANTICLE OF MARY

*Recognizing our own human weakness, we know that only through God's mercy can we be merciful.*

### INTERCESSIONS

O loving God, be with us as we gather together, one in heart and spirit. We pray for all those in need of your mercy:

*~ Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those most vulnerable to oppression or neglect, especially women and children, we pray:

For all who seek a kind word, a gentle compassionate look or the patient hearing of their sorrows, we pray:

For the poor, the sick, and those in need of knowledge and wisdom, we pray:

For those who are in need of safe shelter  
and food, we pray:

For our sisters, associates, partners in ministry,  
friends and benefactors throughout the world,  
that on this feast we may experience our oneness  
in Mercy, we pray:

For all those we serve through the spiritual and  
corporal works of mercy, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.  
Teach me to cast myself entirely into the  
arms of your loving Providence with the most  
lively, unlimited confidence in your compas-  
sionate, tender pity. Grant me, O most merciful  
Redeemer, that whatever you ordain or permit  
may be acceptable to me. Take from my heart

all painful anxiety; suffer nothing to sadden me but sin, nothing to delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of you, my God and my all, in your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

### BLESSING

May God bless and animate you with his divine Spirit,  
that you may prove it is Jesus Christ you love and serve with your whole heart. *Amen.*

# FEASTS OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY II



## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

### GREETING

We adore you, O God, as the Merciful One.  
We seek to discover your movement in us  
and in our world.  
God of the lowly and meek,  
teach us to love tenderly, act justly and walk  
humbly with you.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 145

*Recalling the word of Jesus that he is one with his  
suffering members, we respond to the cry  
of the poor.*

I will exalt you, God my king,  
for ever bless your name.  
I will bless you every day,  
for ever praise your name.

Great is the Lord, highly to be praised,  
great beyond our reach.

Age to age proclaims your works,  
recounts your mighty deeds.  
I ponder your splendor and glory  
and all your wonderful works.

They reveal your fearful power,  
I tell of your great deeds.  
They recall your ample goodness,  
joyfully sing your justice.

Gracious and merciful is the Lord,  
slow to anger, full of love.  
The Lord is good in every way,  
merciful to every creature.

Let your works praise you, Lord,  
your faithful ones bless you.  
Let them proclaim your glorious reign,  
let them tell of your might.

Let them make known to all  
your might and glorious reign.  
Your dominion lasts for ever,  
your rule for all generations!

The Lord is faithful in every word  
and gracious in every work.  
The Lord supports the fallen,  
raises those bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,  
you give them food in due time.  
You open wide your hand  
to feed all living things.

The Lord is just in every way,  
loving in every deed.  
The Lord is near to those who call,  
who cry out from their hearts.

God grants them their desires,  
hears their cry and saves them.  
Those who love God are kept alive;  
the wicked, the Lord destroys.

I will sing the Lord's praise,  
let all flesh bless God's Name,  
holy, both now and for ever.

#### 1 PETER 2:21-24

*This Institute is founded on Calvary, there to serve a  
crucified Redeemer.*

Christ suffered for us  
leaving us an example,  
that we might walk  
in his footsteps.

He did nothing wrong;  
no false word  
ever passed his lips.

When they cursed him  
he returned no curse.  
Tortured, he made no threats  
but trusted in the perfect judge.

He carried our sins  
in his body  
to the cross,  
that we might die to sin  
and live for justice.  
When he was wounded,  
we were healed.

## READING

### *Ephesians 4:1 – 6*

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.



## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*My God, look with compassion and mercy  
on those who are poor and afflicted, and grant us grace to  
do all that we can for their relief  
and comfort.*

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this  
ministry, we do not lose heart.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Intercessions, prayer and blessing as in Feasts of the Sisters of  
Mercy I or the Intercessions for Special Mercy Feasts.*

## INTERCESSIONS FOR SPECIAL MERCY FEASTS

### *September 24*

Merciful God, on this feast of Our Lady of  
Mercy in 1827 you manifested your love for  
your people through the opening of the House  
of Mercy on Baggot Street. As we celebrate  
this feast of Jesus' mother and of our Institute,  
we ask that you show us your love once again.

The House of Mercy was established to serve the  
needs of the poor, the sick and the uneducated:

*~ May we freely respond to your call to serve the  
needy of our time.*

Catherine McAuley was assisted in her ministry by many who were animated by her vision of service:

~ *By collaborating with others in the works of mercy, may we learn from them how to be more merciful.*

Like Catherine, we have established institutions to address our enduring concerns:

~ *Through our sponsored works may we model mercy and justice and promote systemic change according to these ideals.*

Those who came to the House of Mercy experienced respect and hospitality:

~ *May we witness to mercy by reverencing the dignity of each person and creating a spirit of gracious welcome wherever we live and serve.*

Many of Catherine's early co-workers later embraced the Mercy way of life:

~ *May those you are calling to membership in our Institute respond with gladness and generosity.*

### ***November 11***

On this anniversary of Catherine McAuley's death we remember her and all our sisters who have given their lives in service to others, and so we pray:

~ *We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.*

We pray for each of us, that we may be a steady influence for good on this earth:

We pray for hearts free from anxiety and fear and full of self-surrender:

We pray for trust in God's providence during times of doubt and difficulty:

We pray for all who are nearing the time of their own death, that the hope of life eternal will comfort them:

We pray for Sisters of Mercy throughout the world and for their co-workers, that Catherine's life and death may continue to call us to embrace the spirit of hospitality and service:

### *December 12*

On this day in 1831, Catherine McAuley, Mary Ann Doyle, and Mary Elizabeth Harley professed their vows as Sisters of Mercy, thus establishing the new Institute. Grateful for their generosity and inspired by their example, we pray for the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy:

~ *Bless and protect us, merciful God.*

May our performance of the works of mercy be animated by charity and zeal, we pray:

May our newer members and those who are discerning a call to Mercy be supported by the prayer and example of others, we pray:

May those who are called to leadership within the Institute serve the common good with courage and compassion, we pray:

May our benefactors, associates, and co-workers share in the fruits of the good works which they enable, we pray:

May the people of the Americas, who were blessed by the appearance of Our Lady at Guadalupe on this day in 1531, be renewed in their hope and strengthened in their efforts to build a more just society, we pray:

# OFFICE FOR THE DEAD



## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

### GREETING

Praise to you, God of all consolation.

Give us comfort and hope at the death of  
your faithful ones.

In you, O God, life is not ended, but transformed.  
Death is swallowed up in victory.

### DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 42

*Shall we all meet in heaven? Oh what a joy even to think  
of it!*

As a deer craves running water,  
I thirst for you, my God;  
I thirst for God,  
the living God.  
When will I see your face?

Tears are my steady diet.  
Day and night I hear,  
“Where is your God?”

I cry my heart out,  
I remember better days:  
when I entered the house of God,  
I was caught in the joyful sound  
of pilgrims giving thanks.

Why are you sad, my heart?  
Why do you grieve?  
Wait for the Lord.  
I will yet praise God my savior.

My heart is sad.  
Even from Jordan and Hermon,  
from the peak of Mizar,  
I remember you.

There the deep roars to deep;  
your torrents crash over me.  
The love God summoned by day  
sustained my praise by night,  
my prayer to the living God.

I complain to God,  
who I thought was rock:  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why am I bent double  
under the weight of enemies?

“Their insults grind me to dust.  
Day and night they say,  
‘Where is your God?’”

Why are you sad, my heart?  
Why do you grieve?  
Wait for the Lord.  
I will yet praise God my savior.

### PHILIPPIANS 2:6–11

*Day and night I faced death.*

Though in the form of God,  
Jesus did not claim  
equality with God  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
human like one of us.

Flesh and blood,  
he humbled himself,  
obeying to the death,  
death on a cross.

For this very reason  
God lifted him high  
and gave him the name  
above all names.

So at the name of Jesus  
every knee will bend  
in heaven, on earth,  
and in the world below,  
and every tongue exclaim  
to the glory of God the Father,  
“Jesus Christ is Lord.”

## READING

### *1 Corinthians 15:51 – 57*

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

*From the earth you formed me, with flesh you clothed me. Redeemer God, raise me up on the last day.*

## CANTICLE OF MARY

*I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; then in my flesh I shall see God.*



## INTERCESSIONS

Living God, you raised Jesus from the dead and promised us new life through his resurrection. With faith in your promise, we pray.

Through baptism you invite us to participate in the paschal mystery:

~ *By sharing in the sufferings of Jesus may we come to know the power of his resurrection.*

We have been promised a place at the heavenly banquet:

~ *May we be sustained by the eucharist and by our love for one another as we journey home.*

The communion of saints binds all believers together in the union of charity:

~ *May those who have preceded us in death enjoy eternal life.*

Jesus comforted Mary and Martha, Jairus, and the widow of Naim by raising their loved ones from the dead:

~ *May those who mourn be assured that their loved ones now see you face to face.*

Jesus was raised from the dead:

~ *Raise up \_\_\_\_\_ who has died and bring her/him to live with you forever.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

God of the living and the dead, through the power of Christ's resurrection you have conquered sin and death forever. Catherine McAuley told us that each day is a step we take towards eternity. May we continue thus from day to day until we take the last step, which will bring us into your presence. Then we shall be reunited with those we love and every tear shall be wiped away. We ask this through Jesus, our Redeemer and brother. Amen

### BLESSING


May the God of mercy bless and protect us all.  
*Amen.*

May the God of peace comfort us in times of trial. *Amen.*

May the God of all consolation preserve us for life everlasting. *Amen.*

DAYTIME PRAYER  
AND NIGHT PRAYER

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A composite image of Earth, the sun, and the moon in space. The Earth is on the left, showing the Americas. The sun is in the center, creating a bright starburst effect. The moon is on the right. The background is a dark starry sky.

O my Merciful Savior,  
you know my weakness.  
bousafe to assist me  
with your powerful grace.

M. & M. Auley

# DAYTIME PRAYER



## GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 27

*O God, I long to see your face.*

The Lord is my saving light;  
whom should I fear?  
God is my fortress;  
what should I dread?

When the violent come at me  
to eat me alive,  
a mob eager to kill —  
they waver, they collapse.

Should battalions lay siege,  
I will not fear;  
should war rage against me,  
even then I will trust.

One thing I ask the Lord,  
one thing I seek:  
to live in the house of God  
every day of my life,  
caught up in God's beauty,  
at prayer in his temple.

The Lord will hide me there,  
hide my life from attack:  
a sheltering tent above me,  
a firm rock below.

I am now beyond reach  
of those who besiege me.  
In his temple I will offer  
a joyful sacrifice,  
I will play and sing to God.

O God, listen to me;  
be gracious, answer me.  
Deep within me a voice says,  
“Look for the face of God!”

So I look for your face,  
I beg you not to hide.  
Do not shut me out in anger,  
help me instead.

Do not abandon or desert me,  
my savior, my God.  
If my parents rejected me,  
still God would take me in.

Teach me how to live,  
lead me on the right road  
away from my enemies.  
Do not leave me to their malice;  
liars breathing violence  
rise to swear against me.

I know I will see  
how good God is  
while I am still alive.  
Trust in the Lord. Be strong.  
Be brave. Trust in the Lord.

## READING

### *Colossians 3:12 – 15*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

## RESPONSE

Let us live as God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved.  
May we be clothed in thankfulness,  
and the mantle of tender compassion.

## PRAYER

O God, bless the work of this day. Use us to bring about greater justice and peace for all nations and peoples. Open our eyes to see the presence of Jesus in each person we meet today. Make us instruments of your love and mercy. Amen.

## BLESSING

### ALTERNATE PSALM FOR DAYTIME PRAYER: PSALM 13

### ALTERNATE READINGS FOR DAYTIME PRAYER

#### *Galatians 6:9 – 10*

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

#### *1 Thessalonians 5:13b-19*

Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray



without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

*Titus 3:4–8*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure.

# NIGHT PRAYER



## GREETING

O God, as night gathers and all the earth  
grows still,  
we lift our hearts to you in grateful trust.

## DOXOLOGY

### PSALM 131

*My body rests in you, O loving God.*

Lord, I am not proud,  
holding my head too high,  
reaching beyond my grasp.

No, I am calm and tranquil  
like a weaned child  
resting in its mother's arms:  
my whole being at rest.

Let Israel rest in the Lord,  
now and for ever.

## EXAMEN

O God of forgiveness and mercy, at the close  
of this day remind me of the love you have

shown to me. You have visited me in your word  
and in your people. How have I loved you or  
failed to love you in return?

## READING

### *Micah 6:8*

God has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

## RESPONSE

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.  
Teach me to trust in your providence.  
You are a God of love and tenderness.  
I put my faith in you.

## CANTICLE OF SIMEON

*Let us rest in your loving care, O saving God.*

Lord, let your servant  
now die in peace,  
for you kept your promise.

With my own eyes  
I see the salvation  
you prepared for all peoples:

a light of revelation for the Gentiles  
and glory to your people Israel.

## PRAYER

O God, visit this dwelling and surround us in safety. Let no evil harm us or fear rob us of restful slumber. May your angels guard us in peace until the dawn when we will rise to sing your praise. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## BLESSING

Peace be to this house. *Amen.*

Peace be to this land. *Amen.*

Peace be to all the peoples of the earth. *Amen.*

## HYMN

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae:

Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.

Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.

Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia, ergo, Advocata nostra,

illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos  
converte.

Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.

O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

## ALTERNATE PSALM FOR NIGHT PRAYER: PSALM 16

ALTERNATE READINGS FOR NIGHT PRAYER

*Sirach 6:18 – 19; 26 – 28*

From your youth choose discipline,  
and when you have gray hair you will still  
find wisdom.

Come to her like one who plows and  
sows,  
and wait for her good harvest.

For when you cultivate her you will toil  
but little,

and soon you will eat of her produce.

Come to her with all your soul,  
and keep her ways with all your might.

Search out and seek, and she will become  
known to you;

and when you get hold of her, do not let  
her go.

For at last you will find the rest she gives,  
and she will be changed into joy for you.

*1 Thessalonians 5:23 – 24*

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept  
sound and blameless at the coming of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you  
is faithful, and will do this.

*Hebrews 13:5 – 8*

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for God said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

A SELECTION OF  
MERCY READINGS

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Always before he undertook anything,  
Jesus prepared himself for it by prayer,  
and by prayer he also concluded it.

M. & M. Auley





## HUMILITY—THE WAY OF GOD

You should now enter on the ways of God. . . . You should then endeavor to know what are His ways. It is supposed that not all the distractions at prayer or neglect of duty would cause God to withhold His graces from a religious so much as a departure from His ways. A religious who would be considered the most active of the community, who would get through a great deal of business with what is called fuss would be departing from the ways of God, which are all peace and tranquility. The humble, quiet religious who does not do half so much but does all in a manner becoming the character of a religious attracts the eye of God far more and draws down greater graces on her soul.

## ATTRACTING THE LOVE OF GOD

If you keep your heart thus fervently united to Him, He will pour on your soul fervor and consolation such as is unknown to the tepid and surpasses all the delights of the world. He will do so because you do all in your power to attract His friendship. You should remember that not to advance is to go back, and you should reflect each day that you can do more to attract God's love and friendship than you did the

day before. The best means to obtain His favor is to make frequent acts of the love of God. At first you may not feel fervor but it will increase, provided you are faithful in the practice of acts of love, for love begets love. Those who arrive at perfect love of God will feel such peace of soul as nothing will be able to disturb.

### GRATITUDE TO GOD

As the most acceptable return a benefactor can receive from those on whom He bestows favors is a countenance testifying the gratitude of the heart, how acceptable must it be to God when we make Him this return, showing to all by our happy, cheerful countenance the gratitude with which our hearts overflow towards Him for His many favors in this life and His many promises for the one to come. To whom did He make these great promises? To poor fishermen who had nothing to leave but a boat and nets, proof that He does not regard so much what we leave as the will wherewith we leave it.

### CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Our exercises of charity performed abroad will have no value before God if there be not established at home a solid foundation of this virtue, for the Scriptures tell us, “Love one another”; surely then, a well-regulated charity

begins at home. On this condition will our exterior duties be acceptable to Him. If there be anything difficult in this virtue, the example of Christ will make it not only easy but delightful. If a sister appears to receive your attention with coldness and not with that affection you would wish, you should show her by every means in your power that you feel nothing toward her but the most cordial and affectionate charity. A sister who acts otherwise undermines as much as she can the institute to which she belongs and is far from obeying the command of Christ, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

#### THE SPIRIT OF UNION

It is therefore by being united to Jesus Christ that we will be united with each other. This spirit of union is the greatest blessing Almighty God can bestow on a community, since God looks upon the convent where perfect charity reigns as a delightful garden, a paradise where He loves to dwell. Endeavor to contribute as far as in you lies to make *that* in which you reside such in His sight.

#### PRACTICING CORDIALITY

Though a sister’s state of health may prevent her from performing any of the active duties of the house or her incapacity to fill them may

cause her to think she is of little or no value to the community, yet if she practices cordiality towards all her sisters she is doing a great deal both for God and for the community. She is then taking an active part in all the duties of the order. . . . The prosperity or advancement of the order neither depends on nor should be attributed to the good reader, writer, or transcriber, although such are very desirable, but to the humble, cordial, affectionate, obliging, complying and charitable sister.

### THE LIFE AND MAXIMS OF JESUS

A religious should have recourse to her divine Savior in all her troubles and difficulties with a lively faith which consists not merely in believing that He knows her wants and can relieve them but in an enlivening and animating faith which should console and comfort her in the deepest affliction. We should be delighted to make known all our wants and weaknesses to Him who is willing and able to relieve them, and we should persevere in representing them until we obtain what we want or whatever is His will to grant us. The life and maxims of Jesus Christ should be for a religious a book continually open before her mind and she should take His virtues separately, endeavoring to imitate them. This should be her constant care and study.

## PRAYER IS A PLANT

Fervent prayer should be the life and soul of a religious. She is the daughter of prayer and should implore her heavenly Father to bestow this spirit upon her. . . . Prayer is a plant, the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian. If it is well-cultivated and nourished, it will produce abundant fruit, but if it is neglected it will wither and die.

## A REFLECTION ON CATHERINE'S DEATH

Martinmas is a bright little season set almost midway in November's deepening somberness. Literally it extends from the death day of St. Martin of Tours, November 8, to his burial day, November 11, observed by the Church as his feast day. In passing, Martin the Bishop has left a bit of color on the faded year, a thin gold line of demarcation: Martinmas summer on the land, Martinmas tenure on the calendar.

[Henri] Gheon says: "It is an autumnal feast of hope. On St. Martin's day we taste the wine of the last gathering; we build fires of leaves on the hills; outstanding claims are settled, leases renewed . . . so that the past is closed, the future opened up."

Sometime during the first week of November Mother Catherine became bedridden. She was anointed on Monday, November 8, and died during the evening of November 11. In the

interim she preserved her calm, her tender consideration for the sisters, her graciousness, her great reserve on her interior life. The Mass of the feast was celebrated in the infirmary the day of her death. With what fervor she followed it can be imagined from her counsel to the novices.

“If thy whole body be lightsome . . . the whole shall be lightsome,” the Gospel ran, “and as a bright lamp shall enlighten thee” . . . “My truth and my mercy shall be with him” . . . “Blessed is that servant whom, when the Lord shall come, he shall find watching: amen I say to you, he shall set him over all his goods.”

The hours of the day brought her brother, his wife, and their daughters. Of her sister’s children she supposed all dead, but one on the other side of the world would have consoled her, could she have seen the future.

She summoned her lawyer and confirmed her will, securing to the community her “real freehold and personal property” through the hands of Archbishop Murray. The rule had been confirmed in Rome the previous summer. A novena of years, and her work was done!

To the sisters she gave her personal blessing and a parting injunction, no new message but the “union and charity” she had spent herself to teach and exemplify. The words were repeated so often during her last hours that they stand out as she hoped they would. Finally, as if to

make them imperishable, she gave her dying pledge, a promise that was prophecy. If the sisters would preserve union and charity among themselves, they would know such happiness as would cause them wonder.

With her death Martinmas evening the past was closed, the future opened up; and Sisters of Mercy claim that lightsome feast of hope for their own.

CATHERINE MCAULEY,  
FAMILIAR INSTRUCTIONS

### ADVANCING IN PERFECTION

We can never say, “it is enough,” for the greatest saints give us this maxim: that we ought every day to consider we are commencing anew our advancement in perfection, and if we reflected well upon this, we would not be surprised at finding much misery in ourselves, and something to retrench.

### THE REWARDS OF ZEALOUS SERVICE

We may feel confident that Jesus Christ keeps an exact account of all we do for His poor, that He listens to every word we speak to them, to recompense each with God-like liberality. This should encourage us to love this duty, and to devote ourselves unreservedly to the acquisition

of everything that would fit us for its fulfillment. It will lead us to undergo, with sweetness, all the labor and fatigue attendant on the care and instruction of children, and it will animate us with a burning zeal for their advancement in every virtue.

### SERVICE OF THE POOR

By our vocation to the Order of Mercy, and by a most sacred vow at our Holy Profession, we are engaged to comfort and instruct the sick poor of Christ.

This is the principal reason why we are called “Sisters of Mercy,” and why, to the faithful discharge of this duty, so many graces are annexed. Remark the words of our Blessed Lord, quoted in the first section of this Rule: “Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me.” Oh! What an ineffable consolation to serve Christ Himself, in the person of the poor, and to walk in the very same path which he trod! And this happy vocation is ours, all unworthy as we are of such a grace.

### RECITATION OF THE OFFICE

The recital of the Office is one of our most sacred duties, therefore we should endeavor to say it with all possible attention and devotion. Our attention should be threefold: *First*, attention to



the words — that is, great care in pronouncing them. *Second*, attention to the meaning of the words when we understand them, and when we do not we should keep our minds fixed upon God. *Third*, attention to the presence of God. If, according to our holy Rule, before commencing we reflect on the infinite majesty of that God we are about to praise, we shall scarcely fail in the first disposition requisite for the faithful discharge of this holy exercise, namely, attention.

Let us now consider the devotion we should bring to the recital of the Office. It consists in a sweet movement or tendency of the heart towards God: a desire of honoring, loving and praising Him, for the sake of His own infinite goodness and perfection.

## SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The great importance and utility of spiritual retreats are so well known by experience that it appears almost a waste of words to dwell at length on them.

The Saints, who knew that value of spiritual exercises, considered a retreat as one of the most special graces in the treasury of God; and many of them are now in glory, bright with the effulgence of the ever blessed Deity, who owe their state of bliss to a well made retreat.

For our instruction and example, our Divine Lord, Himself, spent forty days in the silence

and solitude of the desert, before entering upon his public ministry. The necessity and advantages of retreat are equally clear and obvious: the greatest fervor is relaxed by time, and the most heroic virtue stands in need of frequent supplies of strength, which are obtained by means of retreat.

### RENEWAL OF VOWS

On the first day of every year, as our holy Rule prescribes, we should make renewal of our Vows, to excite in our hearts an increase of fervor in the service of our heavenly Spouse. How acceptable to God is this renewal of Vows, we learn from St. M[ary] M[agdalen] de Pazzi, who says: “As often as promises made to God are renewed, a renewal of union with God takes place, and the soul acquires more or less of this divine union, according to the state of perfection in which it is at the time, and to the degree of charity it possesses.

### REFLECTION ON THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST

“Nothing conduces more to sanctity,” says St. Bonaventure, “than frequent consideration on the sufferings of Jesus.” While our Lord Himself declared to St. Gertrude that there is no remedy on earth so efficacious against sin, as a devout recollection of His Passion, joined with true repentance and a right faith.

Let us then often fly to the foot of the cross, and repose in the wounds of Jesus. He has written us in His hands — shall we not write His wounds on our minds and hearts? Shall we not say with St. Augustine: “These wounds are my refuge, my hope, my salvation, my life, my resurrection.”

### DEVOTION TO MARY

In keeping with our holy Rule, we are to have unbounded confidence in the Blessed Virgin, we are to fly to her in all our difficulties and spiritual needs; and as a most efficacious means of securing her protection, we are to labor in earnest to imitate her virtues — her universal charity, her untiring patience, her profound humility, her unlimited obedience, her perfect conformity.

Another practice, our holy Rule mentions, is, that we are to celebrate her Feasts with joy and devotion, congratulating her on her exalted privileges, exulting in her glory, which is ever increasing, by the devotion of her children on earth, rejoicing that she has won the heart of God Himself, so that in her He takes delight.

### SILENCE

Silence is elegantly styled in this Rule, “*As the ornament of religious souls, and the faithful guardian of*

*interior recollection.*” Let us study well this inspired encomium, and we shall eventually come to admire, to love, and finally to practice, in all its perfection, this most heavenly virtue. Now, what does an ornament mean? It implies an embellishment, an adornment, a something added, which heightens the value and beauty of an article. Wherefore, the unmistakable ornament of a religious soul is holy silence: it is that which attracts the heavenly Spouse to take up His dwelling in her interior — where no voice save His own is heard — where all is joy and peace in the Holy Ghost.

## UNION WITH GOD

In order to ensure salvation, all Christians are bound to cultivate some degree of union of heart with God, but for us Religious it is absolutely indispensable, especially, as by our vocation to this Order, we are destined to labor for souls. We are formed by God for Himself alone, to be united with Him here, by love and fidelity; and hereafter, by enjoyment and beatitude. In proportion then to our union with God, will be our advancement in perfection; and in proportion to our perfection here, will be our glory hereafter. Of each of us Christ says: *“As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abide in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”* That is, unless we live in Jesus Christ by holy

recollection, we can never draw souls to His love and service. And as the Apostle expresses it: *“Paul may plant and Apollo water, but it is God who giveth the increase,”* therefore, God will give success only to those who are united with Him by love.

## LOVE ONE ANOTHER

The first words of this chapter: “Love one another as I have loved you,” should be engraved on our inmost souls, and shown forth in our whole conduct.

The great St. Francis de Sales beautifully explains the import of these words, thus: “As our Lord has always preferred us to Himself, and has done so as often as He has given Himself to us in the Most Holy Sacrament, making Himself our food, so He wills us to have a love like His, one for another, and that we should even prefer our neighbor to ourselves.”

The rule of perfection then requires that we do all that we possibly can for one another.

Again, our love ought to be so firm, so cordial and so solid that we should never refuse to do or to suffer anything for the good of our Sisters. In this manner did Jesus Christ love us. He did not content Himself with assurances of His love, but gave effectual proofs of it by sufferings and labor. It was His favorite virtue, His dying

bequest, and the mark He chose for the characteristic of His disciples; and so perfectly does our Divine Master wish to have charity reign amongst us that He gives us for our model the union that subsists between Himself and His Heavenly Father. . . .

Let charity then be our badge of honor, our highest glory, the seal of our election to the dignity of Christ's spouses, and therefore, we must—to use the words of the Apostle, “Clothe ourselves, as the elect and beloved of God, with mercy, compassion, kindness, humility, affability, modesty and patience,” cherishing and maintaining this virtue more by acts than words, so that it may truly be said, there is in us but one heart and one soul in God. . . .

## RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE SISTERS

Our holy Rule then reminds us that we are to help and assist one another, on all occasions; that we are to bear with patience each other's defects, weaknesses and imperfections; that all subjects of dispute are to be banished from amongst us, and that, should our opinion differ from that of others, we are to propose our reasons with moderation and charity. Attention to these points will secure our own and others' peace—in fine, it will cause our convent to be an *earthly paradise*.

## SICK AND DECEASED SISTERS

By this rule we see that at no time is our charity towards our Sisters to be more tender and manifest, than when they are, as it were, fastened to the Cross with Jesus, and need all the comfort and consolation which we can possibly offer them, to enable them to suffer with merit to their souls, and to give glory to God. When they are ill, it is our sweet duty to visit them frequently, as in keeping with our holy Rule, and also to practice charity. There are many little ways in which we can alleviate the sufferings of our dear Sisters, and which a tender, compassionate charity will suggest. Our holy Rule remarks that we should piously console our sick Sisters. To comply with this injunction, a few words suffice to show how much we consider they are honored in receiving a share of the Cross. This, and similar little remarks, should be made with great humility and simplicity — not as if we were speaking to the sick on the Visitation, for it is to be supposed that Religious know all that is necessary for sanctifying their sufferings and rendering them pleasing to God. . . .

Our dear, deceased Sisters have a special claim on our prayers. If we hope to be remembered in the prayers of others after our death, we ought now to extend our charity to those beloved spouses of Christ. . . .

## THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

The study of a Religious should be the life and maxims of Jesus Christ. This Divine model should be, in her regard, like a book continually open before her, from which she is to learn what she is to think, say, and do; in what manner, at what time; and this maxim should be engraved on her mind, that, although she possessed a knowledge of all the sciences which have ever been known to man, and was distinguished for sense, prudence, and elegance, so as to gain the admiration of everyone, yet, if she had not studied Jesus Christ, and formed her mind on His example, she is as nothing in His eyes, and wants all, in wanting the science of the Saints.

MARY ANGELA BOLSTER,  
CATHERINE MCAULEY:  
VENERABLE FOR MERCY

## STEWARD OF GOD'S MERCY

There was also in her life what Father Luke Dempsey, op, has termed “a marvelous interaction between doctrine and life.” Christ — in John Henry Newman’s phrase — was the *stay* of her soul, so that “even a life of intense activity was compatible with living in his presence.” Mother Catherine’s letters prove beyond shadow of doubt that she never lost the sense of being



the steward of God's goodness and mercy and that she had three burning loves: our divine Lord, her Sisters and God's poor. She took a long, loving, contemplative look at the reality of life as she saw it in nineteenth-century Ireland and England. From this came her gospel-based spiritual response as she pointed out a new way in which women could play an important and integral role in Church and in society.

#### CATHERINE'S GIFTS TO THE SISTERS.

Through her dedication to a God who is Mercy, Catherine McAuley became a woman of understanding, quiet confidence, compassion and strength and portrayed qualities which induced her companions to love her as a mother and revere her as a saint. To them she gave the gifts of her heart: love, sympathy, tolerance, understanding and forgiveness; gifts of her mind: ideals, principles, purposes; gifts of the Spirit: prayer, peace and a strengthening of faith, hope and charity. She gave them her time, she gave them friendship, she gave them an appreciation for music, beauty and the finer things of life. Above all, she taught them the simplicity of sanctity and she was their compass, directing them at all times to lead God-centered lives and to be true clients of Mary 'under her sweet title of Mercy'.

## REQUISITES FOR A SISTER OF MERCY

In compliance with your desire, Reverend Sir, I shall submit what seems *generally* requisite for a Sister of Mercy. Besides an ardent desire to be united to God and serve the poor, she must feel a particular interest for the sick and dying; otherwise the duty of visiting them would become exceedingly toilsome. She should be healthy, have a *feeling*, distinct, impressive manner of speaking and reading; [and] a mild countenance expressive of sympathy and patience. And there is so much to be required as to reserve and recollection passing through the public ways: caution and prudence in the visits, that it is desirable they should begin rather young, before habits and manners are so long formed as not too likely to alter.

I beg again to remark that this is what seems generally necessary. I am aware exceptions may be met, and that when there is a decided preference for the Order, and other essential dispositions, conformity in practice might be accomplished at any period in life.

*To Rev. Gerald Doyle  
September 5, 1836*

## ACCEPTING THE CROSS OF CHRIST

It distressed me very much to hear from Mr. O'Hanlon that your good director was changed. I know it is an affliction for you, but rest assured: God will send some distinguished consolation. This is your life: joys and sorrows mingled, one succeeding the other. Let us not think of the means God has employed to convey to us a portion of the Holy Cross, being ever mindful that it came from Himself. You remember what Father [Miles] Gaffney said to us when on Retreat: "If the entire Cross upon which Christ died was sent to this House, how impatient would each Sister be to carry it, and she who was permitted to keep it the longest would be the most favored. Far better and most profitable for you to receive with all your heart the Cross which God will send you in any form or shape He pleases." I earnestly hope that you will receive this trial so as to render it valuable to you.

*To Frances Warde*

*May 28, 1841*

JOANNA REGAN AND ISABELLE KEISS,  
TENDER COURAGE

## QUAKER RESPECT FOR WOMEN

Particularly important in the shaping of Catherine McAuley was the Quaker respect

and appreciation for the talents of women. Their pioneering acknowledgement of the spiritual equality of men and women liberated Quaker women to share both religious and secular responsibilities. It seems probable that awareness that the Quaker “Women’s Meetings” were charged with particular concern for the poor of their own sex planted seeds deep in Catherine’s soul, seeds which would blossom in her oft-quoted maxim: “Nothing is more productive of good to society than the careful instruction of women.”

Catherine’s services for the Callaghans allowed her to feel her own sense of dignity and worth, and led her to make a valiant effort to develop that same sense in others. She seemed to understand the assault it is on the human personality to be totally at the mercy of another’s good nature, and utilized the funds available to her not only to relieve needs but also to foster the dignity of the poor receiver.

## MINISTRY OF COURTEOUS PRESENCE

The courtesy imbedded in Catherine shone in the specific environment of the Irish poor. She could enter scenes of abject misery with a cultivated courtesy that saw only the person. In scenes of wretched poverty and noisome illness, it was not in her to draw back involuntarily, avert her eyes, nor stiffen so as not to

faint, her psyche long since won to the task of loving service. Her courtesy sustained through the perfect control she had of her body, her very presence expressed her compassion. . . .

With impeccable manners, Catherine McAuley could take the highest rungs of the social stage with poise and confidence. She bent this control to the ministry of courteous presence, a presence that revealed the divine spirit alive in her services of charity and mercy. With disciplined skill, she allayed the fears of the poor, the sick, and the ignorant in scenes of misery and suffering. Her self possession held tight rein on natural inclinations to turn away, show revulsion, or grow faint. This woman who possessed herself could freely share the gifts of her life with others. She could do more. She could inspire others to act in the same generous and compassionate way.

### MERCY AT WORK IN CATHERINE'S LIFE

Drawing upon years spent learning to respond to gospel imperatives through prayer and reflection as well as developing spiritual strength through self-forgetfulness and self-discipline, Catherine had acquired the conviction that the life of Christ was to be imitated. She not only entered the Gospels; she internalized them. For her Jesus was [a] model, a way to be, a way to live.

The gift of the Spirit to Catherine, her charism, accentuated in her an awareness of the mercy of God in Christ Jesus: salvation in the giving — the gift that was needed, neither earned nor deserved. Her years of private study to substantiate the faith that was in her led her to understand that God, responding to the brokenness or imbalance of humankind, sent his Son to teach us how to be human, to show us the way. The Scriptures drew the blueprint in Jesus' response to the brokenness of the human condition: "Offer the wicked no resistance . . . Turn the other cheek . . . Go a second mile . . . Love your enemies . . . Pray for those who persecute you . . . Heal the sick, the lame, the blind. What I want is mercy, not sacrifice."

For a long time Catherine McAuley would not have been able to put the word on what she was about as "mercy." She discovered mercy at work in her life, experiencing within her concrete situation, her own need. Reflecting on these experiences, she found a sense of God's abiding presence.

### TRANSLATING PAIN INTO COMPASSION

Her absorption in the Word of God, written and incarnate, called her to imitate the example of Jesus in translating the love of God to others. In her experience of her own limitations, Catherine found a God of love, a hidden God

whose healing grace helped her transcend her frustrations, bitterness, and weaknesses and enabled her to translate her own pain into a deep compassion for others. In this compassion, she experienced the alleviating effect created by her willing entry into the pain of others.

Catherine somehow grasped intuitively that mercy is gift given in response to need, neither earned nor deserved. She did not shrink from the demands mercy places on whoever would extend it. She knew that rendering the merciful service was not an act of beneficence, but one of gratitude to God for mercy received.

#### THE CHARISM OF MERCY

Catherine McAuley could have been insulated and isolated against the miserable poverty of Dublin. Instead she recognized the call of the Spirit, and accepted it with a grateful love and a willingness to put it at the service of others. As recipient of God's mercy, she saw herself as steward. Gifts given were gifts for others. Direct and practical in her response, she went out into gutter and garret to teach, to soothe and to shelter. She had discovered that her charism, her gift for others, was mercy, a charism to the cutting edge of brokenness or imbalance.

Giving outward expression to this inner grace, with a singularly keen eye for the special needs of her time and an astute perception

of the methods by which they could be successfully met, she quickly attracted others drawn by a similar call to respond to the action of God in their lives.

## UNION AND CHARITY

Catherine McAuley was not content that her institute merely attend to the social ills pervading her society. She was impelled to affect the spirit, the inner life, that flashes out like “shining from shook foil.” Her grasp of the presence of God in the most wretched person allowed her to see that the poverty, sickness, and ignorance which prevent the spirit of a person from shining through were enemies to be overcome so that the divine spark would inform all of life ever more brightly.

That this reverence for each one whose life they touched was rooted in the love and respect of the members for one another is clearly evident in Catherine’s shaping of the Rule. To her question at the inception of the Institute of Mercy, “What shall we use as a Rule?”, the archbishop had answered simply, “The Chapter on Union and Charity in the Rule of the Presentation Sisters.”

Interpreted by Catherine, this chapter gave focus to their spirituality, demanding that each respect and reverence another’s gifts, talents, and disposition, as well as accept each



individual's physical, emotional, psychic, and spiritual limitations. It created unity with variety by permitting members to retain their own personalities while becoming bonded as Sisters of Mercy.

### THE VOW OF SERVICE

With a shared vision, Catherine and her first associates had so unequivocally reduced their Rule to practice before submitting it for approval that the bishop of Cork urged at a profession in 1837 that they add a fourth vow — the service of the poor, the sick and the ignorant — as both integral to their dedication and descriptive of it.

Catherine's conviction that the works of mercy were the very "business of our lives," had shaped the community from its inception in an apostolic spirituality. She had emphasized this spirituality in retreat conferences to the sisters at Baggot Street: "Prayer, retirement, and recollection are not sufficient for those called to labor for the salvation of souls. [They should be like] the compass that goes round its circle without stirring from its center. Now, our center is God from Whom all our actions should spring as from their source, and no exterior action should separate us from Him." . . .

With wisdom and balance, she asserted the value of prayer and contemplation, and the

importance of a profound inner life, while insisting at the same time that in service of God's people, works unite us to God.

### ACTION AND CONTEMPLATION

The habit of reflection that Catherine McAuley achieved was not simply a practice of guarding exterior senses, cultivating the mind to think above and beyond present duties. This view appraised human tasks as necessary but secondary. As such they were understood to interfere with the primary or spiritual obligation or exercises. Catherine had learned how to utilize the activities of each hour to be the matter of her reflection, and never accepted a contemplative/apostolic dichotomy. She insisted that active works must be done without losing awareness of the presence of God, convinced that the Sister of Mercy must make mission the ambience of her recollection, as she makes charity the ambience and quality of her service.

### CROSS AND CROWN

Catherine's ability to reflect on her experiences taught her the rhythms of light and darkness, of pain and surcease, of sorrow and joy, of death and resurrection, or of "cross and crown." She had tremendous confidence that one would follow the other with regularity, and taught that

a life of peace and harmony was to be achieved from the constant integration of these paradoxical realities.

Possessing a lived understanding of the Paschal Mystery, she used the language of “cross and crown,” seeing sufferings at work in her life and in the life of the institute as ways of taking up the cross and dying daily to self to resurrect the spirit and to grow in greater union with God.

Catherine’s deepest theology consisted in her belief that the cross was part of life. To embrace it released new and creative powers from suffering, pain, and death. She believed sorrows were to be felt, yet transcended through the free choice to yield — learning through yielding the lesson of the seed’s dying to come to new life. Everything in life had the power to ennoble and transform, for “without the Cross the real Crown cannot come.”

### THE PASCHAL MYSTERY—FOOD FOR CATHERINE’S SPIRIT

In the advice or counsel she gave to others, she revealed the Paschal Mystery as the deepest food for her spirit. She had experienced its transforming work in the recesses of her soul and taught from that experience, welcoming difficulties that could not be surmounted as a share of the cross of Christ. Receiving these sorrows from the hand of a loving God, Catherine

believed that whatever came from this source would ultimately become a blessing in her own life and in the life of the institute. Often burnished as gold in the fire, she seemed to come forth more enthusiastic, more compassionate, more joyful, more possessed by God.

MARY CARMEL BOURKE,  
A WOMAN SINGS OF MERCY

## TRUST IN GOD

Catherine McAuley's virtue of confidence in God is a fundamental principle of her apostolic spirituality — her simple, unswerving trust in the abiding providence of God. . . . Her future must have seemed very dark and obscure to her during those long years of waiting on the Lord but she never ceased to trust him. She knew he would not forsake her, and the “light” when it came was “almost too bright” — words she wrote to Frances Warde not long before she died.

Catherine's loving and simple trust in God was the mainspring of all her decisions and actions. From it she derived her deep peace of heart and her serenity, and such daring courage to run risks in his service that the Bishop of Cork, the Reverend Dr. Murphy, who knew her well, gave her the nickname of “Sister of Divine Providence.”

## CATHERINE'S TRUST IN FOUNDATION SUPERIORS

We find her in an amazing act of daring: she made her first foundation with only one professed Sister and a novice! Surely a tiny mustard seed!

But she gave of her best, for she sent her own Profession companion, Marianne Doyle, her first co-worker. She knew she could rely on Marianne to live out her Mercy life in holiness, in close union with God, witnessing to his loving mercy. She knew she could trust her to call on the local Church to help them. But even more daring was the trust that enabled Catherine to hand over to Marianne the responsibility of forming the novice, and the three postulants who immediately joined them. It would have been quite a normal procedure to take the postulants back to Baggot Street to be trained for religious life under the personal guidance of the Foundress.

This is a powerful example of the freedom of soul that was Catherine's, the absolute lack of personal ambition or pride, for she had such confidence in Marianne, and in God's guidance, that she handed over to her, and to each of the Superiors of the fourteen foundations made in her lifetime, complete autonomy, not only in the administration of the new foundation, but in the safeguarding and handing-on of the true

Mercy spirit. Catherine believed that those who were living within the local Church were the ones who could best interpret and minister to its local needs. And she trusted them utterly. Though she did not rule them, she continued to guide and support them by visits and frequent letters, encouraging them in their difficulties by her own buoyant spirit and her strong, calm faith.

### FEMININE QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP

The natural talent for leadership with which God had gifted Catherine was enhanced by her feminine qualities of mind and heart which drew young people to her; being thirty years older than most of them, she gave them from her maturity and freedom a quality of life that enriched the community with gay courage and cheerfulness. She began her task of founding the congregation and writing its Rule in a spirit of peace and quiet trust in God. Her patience, her compassion, her lighthearted playfulness all helped to give life and character to the first community. She realized that her loving-kindness must first be given to her Sisters, the first objects of her mercy, and from them flow out to the poor to whom they ministered.

The Foundress was very reluctant to accept the title of Reverend Mother and even to the last she would not allow any ceremony in her presence. She encouraged respect for the office

of Superior, but accepted no privileges for herself and never exempted herself from the common duties. This attitude stemmed from her respect for all her Sisters and her perception of the dignity and integrity of each person and the need for freedom, within authority, to develop fully as a human person and as a daughter of God. In this she was startlingly modern in her psychological insights and in her understanding of her responsibility to create an atmosphere of freedom within authority, to allow for the Sisters' spiritual and emotional growth.

Prudence and simplicity and practical common sense were the hallmarks of her exercise of authority within the community and in their apostolate. Her concept of authority as service was the fruit of her humble acceptance of herself and her limitations and of her role as an instrument that God was choosing to use.

MARY IGNATIA NEUMANN, ED.,  
THE LETTERS OF CATHERINE MCAULEY

### DESIRING GOD'S WILL

You have given all to God without any reserve. Nothing can happen to you which He does not appoint. You desire nothing but the accomplishment of His Holy Will. Everything, how

trivial soever, regarding you will come from this adorable Source. You must be cheerful and happy, animating all around you.

*To Frances Warde  
February 17, 1838*

## THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY

My dear Sister E., I would find it most difficult to write what you say Mr. Clarke wishes for, the circumstances which would make it interesting could never be introduced in public discourse. It commenced with 2, Sister Doyle and I. The plan from the beginning was such as is now in practice. In '27 the house was opened. In a year and a half we were joined so fast that it became a matter of general wonder. Doctor Murray gave his most cordial approbation and visited frequently. All was done under his direction from the time we entered the House, which was erected for the purposes of Charity.

Doctor Blake and Rev. Mr. Armstrong were chiefly concerned, received all the ideas I had formed, and consulted for 2 years at least before the House was built. I am sure Doctor Blake had it constantly before him, in all his communications with Heaven, for I never can forget his fervent prayers — when it was in progress.

Seeing us increase so rapidly, and all going on in the greatest order almost of itself, great anxiety



was expressed to give it stability. We who began were prepared to do whatever was recommended and in September 1830 we went with Dear Sister Harley to George's Hill to serve a novitiate for the purpose of firmly establishing it. In December '31 we returned, and the progress has gone on as you know.

We now have gone beyond 100 in number, and the desire to join seems rather to increase, though it was thought the foundations would retard it — it seems to be quite otherwise. There has been a most marked Providential Guidance which the want of prudence, vigilance, or judgment has not impeded, and it is here that we can most clearly see the designs of God. I could mark circumstances calculated to defeat it at once, but nothing however injurious in itself has done any injury. This is all I could say.

The loss of property has been supplied. The Death of the most valuable Sisters passed away as of no consequence. The alarm that was spread by such repeated deaths did not prevent others crowding in; in short, it evidently was to go on, and surmount all obstacles, many of which were great indeed, proceeding from causes within and without.

One thing is remarkable, that no breach of Charity ever occurred amongst us. The Sun never, I believe, went down on our anger. This is our only boast, otherwise we have been

deficient enough, and far, very far from cooperating generously with God in our regard, but we will try to do better. . . .

*To Elizabeth Moore  
January 13, 1839*

## HEARTS CENTERED IN GOD

We have one solid comfort amidst this little tripping about, our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back. Oh may He look on us with love and pity and then we shall be able to do anything He wishes us to do, no matter how difficult to accomplish or painful to our feelings. If He looks on us with approbation for one instant each day it will be sufficient to bring us joyfully on the end of our journey. Let us implore Him to do so at this season of Love and Mercy.

*To Mary de Sales White  
December 20, 1840*

## GOOD TODAY, BETTER TOMORROW

How rapidly the days, weeks, and months are passing. Another month ended, that seemed but a few days begun. If we have not forfeited the friendship of almighty God, but have been trying to love Him more and more, and to serve Him faithfully, then they were blessed days for us. Oh,

let us endeavor to use these days, such as we should wish the past to have been. Let us enter into the spirit of the Church, making this time a truly penitential season, mortifying the pride of self-opinion, performing all with humble heart, keeping the first Lenten admonition engraved on our heart: “You are made from dust and unto dust you will return.” Our poor bodys [sic] only but our precious immortal souls, after passing through these few years of pilgrimage, pain and sorrow, will, if we are faithful, soon enter on the joys of a blissful Eternity.

The simplest and most practical lesson I know, my Dear Sister de Sales, is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow. Let us take one day only in hands, at a time, merely making a resolve for tomorrow, thus we may hope to get on taking short, careful steps, not great strides.

*To Mary de Sales White  
February 28, 1841*

## THE BLESSING OF UNITY

All are good and happy. The blessing of unity still dwells amongst us and oh what a blessing, it should make all else pass into nothing. All laugh and play together, not one cold, stiff soul appears. From the day they enter, all reserve of any ungracious kind leaves them. This is the

spirit of the Order, indeed the true spirit of Mercy flowing on us, that notwithstanding our unworthiness God never seems to visit us with angry punishment. He may punish a little in Mercy, but never in wrath. Take what He will from us, He still leaves His holy peace, and this He has graciously extended to all our convents. Thousands of thanks and praises to His Holy Name.

*To Elizabeth Moore  
Easter Monday, 1841*

#### THE EFFECTS OF LENTEN MEDITATION

The impression made on our minds by forty days meditation on Christ's humiliations, meekness, and unwearied perseverance will help us on every difficult occasion, and we will endeavor to make Him the only return He demands of us, by giving Him our whole heart, fashioned on His own model — pure, meek, merciful and humble. All will then be easy and sweet, no agitation, no particular desire except to please and glorify God.

Pray for your portion of Easter Grace before the extra Treasury is closed. Pray fervently and constantly, do not give up until all is given to you.

*To Mary de Sales White  
April 19, 1841*

## TRUST IN PROVIDENCE

You are on the secure high road of the Cross — have the most strong and lively confidence that your convent will be firmly established for it certainly will. “Be just and fear not.” Acquit yourself with justice towards God, let no temporal consideration influence your words or actions when the duty of your state is in question. I could not think any person with very cautious worldly views worthy to be admitted to holy profession. It is not a disposition to bestow gifts, like benevolent persons in the world, that bespeaks generosity of mind for the religious state. It is bestowing ourselves most freely and relying with unhesitating confidence on the Providence of God.

When our innocent, yet very sensible, Sister Chantal (McCann) was about to hand over all she possessed, making it impossible to ever command one shilling, her Mother told her she ought to have some security, as many persons were of [the] opinion this House would not be established, and said to her: “What would you do then?” She answered: “Won’t I have my sweet Lord?” And sweet He was to her indeed to the very last moment. Tho’ we may not often have the consolation to meet such noble universal disengagement as hers, yet a spirit

directly opposite, I humbly hope will never  
make its abode amongst us.

*To Mary Ann Doyle  
July 24, 1841*

CATHERINE MCAULEY,  
“RULE AND CONSTITUTIONS OF  
THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF MERCY”

### TENDER LOVE FOR THE POOR

The Sisters admitted into this religious congregation besides the principal and general end of all religious orders, such as attending particularly to their own perfection, must also have in view what is peculiarly characteristic of this Institute of the Sisters of Mercy, that is, a most serious application to the Instruction of poor Girls, Visitation of the Sick, and protection of distressed women of good character.

In undertaking the arduous, but very meritorious duty of instructing the poor, the Sisters whom God has graciously pleased to call to this state of perfection, shall animate their zeal and fervor by the example of their Divine Master Jesus Christ, who testified on all occasions a tender love for the poor and declared that He would consider as done to Himself whatever should be done unto them.

*Chapter 1, articles 1 and 2*

## THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN

The Sisters shall feel convinced that no work of charity can be more productive of good to society, or more conducive to the happiness of the poor than the careful instruction of women, since whatever be the station they are destined to fill, their example and advice will always possess influence, and where ever a religious woman presides, peace and good order are generally to be found.

*Chapter 2, article 5*

## MERCY, THE PRINCIPAL PATH

Mercy, the principal path pointed out by Jesus Christ to those who are desirous of following Him, has in all ages of the Church excited the faithful in a particular manner to instruct and comfort the sick and dying poor, as in them they regarded the person of our Divine Master, who has said, “Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to Me.” . . . .

Let those whom Jesus Christ has graciously permitted to assist Him in the Persons of his suffering Poor, have their minds animated with gratitude and love and placing all their confidence in Him, ever keep His unwearied patience and humility present to their minds, endeavoring to imitate Him more perfectly every day in

self-denial, patience and entire resignation. Thus they shall gain a crown of glory and the great title of Children of the Most High which is assuredly promised to the merciful.

*Chapter 3, articles 1 and 3*

### THE PERFECTION OF ORDINARY ACTIONS

The perfection of the religious soul depends, not so much on doing extraordinary actions, as on doing extraordinarily well the ordinary actions and exercises of every day. In this particularly consists the difference between the perfect and imperfect in a religious community. The daily duties are the same for all, the manner of performing them distinguishes the one from the other. . . .

But in order to perform these ordinary exercises well, with a view to their own perfection, they must have the purest intention of pleasing God. God and God alone must be the principal motive of all their actions — it is this pure intention of pleasing God that renders the good work valuable and meritorious. Without this the most laborious duties of the Institute, the greatest austerities, the most heroic actions and sacrifices are of little value, being divested of that merit which flows from a pure and upright intention, while on the contrary, actions the most trivial when accompanied by it become valuable and meritorious of Everlasting



Life, nothing is lost, every word and action fructifies, the religious soul enriches herself every moment and lays up treasures of glory for an endless eternity.

*Chapter 5, articles 1 and 3*

## LOVE AND UNION

“Love one another as I have loved you.” This was the special command of Jesus Christ to His Apostles, and in the accomplishment of this Divine Precept, inseparably united as it is with the grand precept of the Love of God, consists, according to the Apostle, the plenitude of the Law. This mutual love, our Blessed Savior desires, may be so perfect as to resemble in some manner the Love and Union which subsists between Himself and His Heavenly Father. This He inculcated in the strongest terms at the last Conference of His Mortal Life with His Beloved Disciples. This was His last Dying Injunction which, as a most valuable legacy, He bequeathed to all His followers, and by this they were to prove themselves to be really His Disciples. . . .

This mutual union and love should therefore eminently characterize religious souls. This should distinguish them above all others as faithful spouses, and servants of Jesus Christ. The Sisters of this pious Institute, founded and

grounded on charity, should therefore make that favorite virtue of their Divine Master their own most favorite virtue. This they should study to maintain and cherish so perfectly amongst themselves as to live together as if they had but one heart and one soul in God. This love for one another should be such as to emulate the love and union of the Blessed in Heaven.

*Chapter 8, articles 1 and 2*

CATHERINE MCAULEY,  
“SPIRIT OF THE INSTITUTE”

## THE OBJECT OF THE ORDER

To devote our lives to the accomplishment of our own salvation and to promote the salvation of others is the end and object of our order of Mercy. These two works are so linked together by our rule and observances, that they reciprocally help each other. We should often reflect that our progress in spiritual life consists in the faithful discharge of the duties belonging to our state, as regards both ourselves and our neighbor, and we must consider the time and exertion which we employ for the relief and instruction of the poor and ignorant as most conducive to our own advancement in perfection, and the time given to prayer and all other pious

exercises, we must consider as employed to obtain the grace, strength and animation which alone could enable us to persevere in the meritorious obligations of our state, and if we were to neglect these means of obtaining Divine support, we would deserve that God should stop the course of His graces, to make us sensible that all our efforts would be fruitless, except we were continually renewed and replenished with His Divine Spirit. God speaking to us by his inspired Apostle says — attend to thyself.

#### WORKS OF MERCY

It follows from what has been said that each society of religious receives a grace particularly adapted to the duties which they are called to perform. We ought then have great confidence in God in the discharge of all these offices of Mercy, spiritual and corporal, which constitute the business of our lives, and assure ourselves that God will particularly concur with us to render them efficacious as by His infinite mercy we daily experience and this proceeds as we have said before from the grace belonging to the vocation or grace of the order.

MARY SULLIVAN, "COMFORTING AND  
ANIMATING: THE GENERATIVE  
WORK OF CATHERINE MCAULEY"

TO COMFORT AND ANIMATE

To "comfort" and to "animate" are among the most frequently used words in Catherine's personal vocabulary. They are outgoing, life-giving and life-sustaining verbs which represent for her both the merciful action of God in our regard and two aspects of the merciful response which God asks of us in Christ Jesus. . . .

Catherine's concept of comfort and consolation was clearly biblical, and intimately related to her theology of God's mercy and to her Christology. For her, the comfort or consolation of God was the God-given realization that human lives are, despite all affliction and apparent devastation, finally sustained and redeemed by the merciful care of God manifested in Jesus Christ and in the action of those who follow him. Catherine therefore made her own the prophetic task announced by Deutero-Isaiah and irrevocably fulfilled in Jesus: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God; speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her, that her time of service is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from Yahweh's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1 – 2).

In the faces of cholera victims, destitute young girls, the dying poor, homeless unemployed women, and her own sick and dying companions, she came to know, as had Saint Paul, “the God of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Corinthians 1:3 – 4).

Just as “comfort” or “console” was a characteristic word in Catherine’s personal vocabulary, so was “animate,” the verb and its adjectival and noun forms. “Animation” was the word Catherine repeatedly used to designate the effect of God’s merciful action in human hearts and the power of Jesus’ example. To be animated by the Spirit of Christ was to manifest all the God-given and humanly sustained liveliness of the true spirit of the order: the spirit of mutual love and service of the poor. . . .

But the animation which she particularly sought and prayed for was a much deeper reality: the vivacious generosity of spirit made possible by the Spirit of God, giving her companions as “ardent desire to understand perfectly the obligations of religious life and to enter into the real spirit of their state” (Neumann, 319). While Catherine understood that all her associates were responsible, before God, for nurturing and encouraging the continuation of this God-given

“animation,” she seems to have recognized that she personally had a special and explicit obligation to exemplify and promote this first quickening, by her own zeal. She was the “founder” of the Sisters of Mercy precisely in this vivifying sense: she recognized and named the animating gift of God; she continually gave life, spirit, and support to the fruit of that gift; she used every opportunity to cheer and invigorate her sisters; and she deliberately nurtured their God-given charity and zeal. In a word, she *animated* them — by her words, her example, her presence, her affection, and her own concrete commitment to the works of mercy.

## ANIMATION

The outstanding feature of Catherine McAuley’s behavior precisely as a founder was not that she was outstanding, though she was. Rather it was her animation of the zeal of her companions. Her collaborative, supportive mode of ecclesial leadership was, in many important respects, a new and feminine model of ecclesial administration. She was willing to work with and defer to what her associates brought to their common efforts, even when their talents or knowledge or courage might have seemed less than what was needed at the moment; she was willing to learn from them and with them as the decade unfolded; she suffered with them and took her

place at their side, in poverty, uncertainty, sickness, and death; and she made herself, gradually and finally, completely dispensable to their work and to their future. In all this, her one unique and irreplaceable contribution as their founder was to animate them — that is, continually to remind them of the true spirit of what they were about, and to kindle, by every human means in her power, the God-given life and desire that was already in them.

‘Catherine wrote often about the “true spirit” of the order, the quintessential spirit of their common religious project. For her this vital spirit was the love of God, the fundamental life-reality which gave strength and purpose to all the human particulars of their life and work. Its source was God’s merciful blessing; its two external manifestations were their own union and charity and their mercifulness toward others.

MARY DALY, “CATHERINE MCAULEY’S  
ORIGINAL RULE AND HER  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORDER OF MERCY”

### MERCY IS EVERYTHING

[Chapter 3 of Catherine’s Rule] opens with a proclamation of Mercy as the principal path pointed out by Jesus to those who are desirous of following him. The language is direct and

strong. For Catherine, Mercy is everything. It is mercy that through all the ages of the Church has moved the faithful to instruct and comfort the sick and dying poor. It is the faithful not simply religious who have responded to this call. She gives the reason for their response as simply that in the poor they regarded “the person of our Divine Master.” . . .

Catherine continues in part 2 to strengthen the motivation of the sisters to this work of Mercy by citing our Savior’s great tenderness for the sick evidenced in his miraculous cures and in the healing power given to the Apostles. Catherine then lists a number of holy men and women distinguished for devoting their lives to “this work of Mercy.” Her own excitement is evident in the concluding sentence of this article:

*“Such bright examples and the great recompense promised must be strong motives for the Sisters of this Holy Institute, to fulfill with fervor and delight, every part of this meritorious duty.”*

Absent from the text is any sense of heaviness or burden. Brightness, fervor, delight and merit take their place. Such an attitude expresses a reverential quality which may be what prompted Catherine to refer to the Institute as holy since it carries out so awesome and holy a “duty.” Only in this article does Catherine refer to the Institute as holy.



. . . In article 3 Catherine exhorts the sisters to place full confidence in Christ and his assistance as they labor with him remaining always conscious of the example of his patience and humility. She exhorts them to the imitation of Christ, that they may gain “a crown of Glory.” She concludes with an interesting insight. Because they are merciful the sisters will gain the title of Children of the Most High. To be merciful is to be a child of God. It is God, the Source of Mercy, who begets Mercy.

#### UNION WITH CHRIST

[For Catherine] Mercy is the path by which one follows Jesus. For her he is Mercy given and received. The sick and dying poor are his. To minister to them is to minister to him. It is here then that the sisters meet Christ. Catherine encourages them to this consciousness of the union of all in Christ. Thus in article 6 [of the Rule, Chapter 3] Catherine cautions the sisters to be recollected as they pass through the streets, “going forward as if they expected to meet their Divine Redeemer in each poor habitation, since He has said: ‘Where two etc. etc. are in my name I will be.’”

One important awareness contained in these articles is that the sisters labor with Christ, assisting him in his labors on behalf of the poor. The works of Mercy are not their works but

God's. This consciousness is the source of energy and freedom. One relies not on oneself but on God.

Crucial in the spiritual journey is the moment when one hands over to God all one's endeavors, realizing that one's own efforts apart from God have accomplished and can accomplish nothing. It is the realization that this is God's world, God accomplishes its salvation, that it is God who acts within and through each one in doing all that is good.

Thus Catherine enjoyed freedom of spirit in accomplishing the works of mercy. In tune with God in whom she dwelt, she moved forward with works and moved back from them as circumstances dictated. The poor always remained God's poor and though she was called to serve them, their care was basically God's affair.

ELIZABETH CARROLL, "THE SPIRIT OF  
CATHERINE MCAULEY: ITS RELEVANCE TO  
CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES"

## THE QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS

Another feature of Mother McAuley's spirit . . . is the primacy of human relationships. If Mother McAuley's life was a lonely conquest for truth in God, it was also a beautiful vision of life made agreeable by interrelationships

with people. She was not to have the heritage which most of us enjoy, of a long uninterrupted family relationship. Death robbed her very early of what might have been the wondrously supportive influence of her father, subjected her to the rather unstable and superficial influences of her mother, and threw her into dependence upon frequently changing relationships with the relatives and friends with whom she lived. The remarkable point in her life is that despite the varied conditions of poverty and wealth, small group life and large, Catholic in Catholic households, sole Catholic among Protestants, and of strict fidelity and the wavering of those around her, Catherine so reacted to fulfill the needs of each of those people in her life as to win from them respect and affection.

She was, before the invention of the term, an existentialist in the regard which she had for the whole person. In her catechizing efforts and in the need she felt to conserve the virtue of young women, she could never divorce “the salvation of souls” from the salvation of people. These were not disembodied souls to be preached to and baptized; these were living, potentially capable people to be taught God and mutual love, certainly, but also to be taught how to earn a living and how to grace their lives and those of others with the culture of education. She relied upon people as well as upon prayer, to reveal

to her and to bring her close to God. Because she entered so intimately into people, she was often deeply hurt by misunderstandings and grieved by the many times death took from her those whom she loved and upon whom she depended for guidance and strength.

MARY SULLIVAN,  
“WELCOMING THE STRANGER:  
THE KENOSIS OF CATHERINE MCAULEY”

## COURTESY

Catherine offered the same gracious empathy to stagecoach drivers, poor boys who carried her luggage, bishops who visited Baggot Street, and to the youngest, most inexperienced postulants. If one were to ask her to choose her name for the virtue implied in what we call “embracing cultural diversity” her one word would probably be *courtesy*. She would not mean superficial politeness, that may sometimes mask coldness and inhospitableness, but rather genuine respect for and generous consideration of others: the kind of thorough courtesy that creates a large space for the differences between ourselves and others, and that honors their otherness and welcomes it into a deeper unity. For Catherine such courtesy is the result of charity and humility: the consequence of taking to heart Jesus’

command, “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34; Rule 8, in Sullivan, ed. 303), and of realizing that humility of mind and heart is “the surest mark of true servants of Christ” (Rule 9.1, in Sullivan, ed. 305).

### CATHERINE'S EMBRACE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

If I were to summarize in the broadest terms Catherine McAuley's embrace of cultural diversity and her legacy of hospitality to strangers, I would have to say that:

~ She did not narrowly define the love of God or the unity to which we and our neighbors in the world are called.

~ She did not misname differences or see cultural variations as obstacles to that unity.

~ She did not use adversarial language to describe these differences.

~ She did not cling to her own distinctiveness or to her own personal preferences or non-essential customs.

~ And she did not regard her friendship with God as something to be coveted or exploited for herself alone.

Rather:

~ She emptied herself of the comfort of her former way of life.

~ She took the form of a servant in her human context.  
~ She extended her affectionate embrace to otherness.  
~ She opened her door to strangers.  
~ She welcomed them.  
~ She learned from those who were different and left them whole in their Godly difference.  
~ She humbled herself before all human forms.  
~ And she followed, as best she could, the example of Christ, who became obedient to God’s wide and merciful love of all humankind, even to the point of death, even death on a cross.

If we wish to sow the seeds of real hope in our world, I think Catherine McAuley would say: This is the way we must do it — one person at a time: one answering of the figurative doorbell, one opening of the figurative door, one embrace of the stranger, one welcoming of the other, one sharing of our bread and milk — one person at a time.

PATRICIA SMITH, “MERCY VALUES TODAY:  
EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW”

## MERCY AS A VALUE

The psalmist tells us that “God’s mercy is above all God’s works.” And so, the final Mercy value is mercy itself. Unfortunately, the term

has sometimes suffered from disempowering interpretations: “mercy” can refer to “being nice,” enabling unhealthy behaviors, or keeping the peace. But mercy is something quite different. In the Hebrew scriptures, mercy comes from the word for “womb.” The roots of human mercy are in the divine womb. This is to say, love from the inside out, with all the potential for birth that comes with real pain, at real cost. In the Bible, mercy is one of the synonyms for God. God’s love is steadfast. God’s caring presence, no matter what, is assured. According to the “womb” imagery, mercy is a kindness of the mind that mirrors the spaciousness of the heart.

One of the clearest and most compelling recent definitions of “mercy” comes from Wendy Farley, a theologian at Emory University in Atlanta. She writes that compassion (mercy) is:

a mode of relationship  
and a power  
that is wounded by the suffering of others  
and propelled to action on their behalf  
now.

(Wendy Farley, *Tragic Vision  
and Divine Compassion: A Theodicy*.)

Mercy is a mode of relationship, not a momentary sporadic feeling. It is, rather, a habit of mind and heart, a way of organizing and interpreting the world. It is an enduring approach to

the world. And, like any relationship, it is a two-way street.

And a power. This is the exciting, challenging part. Mercy is only what it is when it is effective — when it survives against great odds and when it empowers all who come within its orbit of care. Because mercy opposes injustice and whatever is degrading, it is likely to involve danger. Conflict is inevitable, struggle enduring. Courage is needed, as never before, in our time.

Wounded (but not destroyed) by the suffering of others. If Mercy is com-*passion*, or “suffering with,” it is also com-*fort*, or “standing strong with.” An inner-city minister in Baltimore put it beautifully: “Mercy is justice in tears.”

Propelled to Action. Propelled is a very active verb. It says that mercy is God’s *empowering* presence in the world, a presence known only in and through those who act in God’s merciful name. What needs propel us and our organizations today? What wounds us?

Now. The God of mercy does not wait to care for us at the end of our lives or at the end of time. This God cares for us during all time. Made in this God’s image, we are exhorted by Mother Jones: “Pray for the dead, but fight like hell for the living.” This means practical action. Now.



## OUR NEED FOR MERCY

. . . Catherine lived a fairly balanced life. Indeed she was a woman committed to being an instrument of God's mercy to those most particularly in need. She was also a woman who was united with the compassionate sufferings of Jesus Christ particularly by her presence with those persons who are poor. At the same time, she was a woman in need of the tender mercy of God, and she was open and receptive to this mercy as it was manifested in the events of life and in the myriad kinds of relationships she had with others.

Forgetting this latter dimension of the charism can lead to a kind of deadly seriousness about ourselves as ministers, an over-emphasis on self-reliance and achievement, and a lack of balance between work and leisure, seriousness and play, self and other, and the inner and outer dimensions of our lives. Lack of awareness of this dimension of the charism can also lead to a kind of forgetfulness that it is God who is the author of all mercy.

. . . I think we might find it advantageous to ask ourselves the following kinds of questions: Are we willing to "work" a little less and, as

Catherine put it, “waste time” with others? What are others saying to us about their need for God’s mercy and their desire to participate in this healing and creative energy? How do we experience the mercy of God as it is manifested to us in and through others? Do we need to deepen our understanding that mercy is the sign of God’s care for the universe and, consequently, grow in our ability to trust that the presence of God’s mercy is at work in the world? Can we let go of our concerns about our ultimate destiny or about the ultimate destiny of our institutions just enough that we might sense the next movement of the Spirit in our communal life?

If we worked a little less and spent more time listening to the deepest desires of our own hearts, what would we hear today? Might we come to know ourselves as women and men in need of God’s Mercy? Might this growing realization engender deeper levels of acceptance, provoke far-reaching and powerful bonds of mutuality, and create more merriment and affection among ourselves and with others? Finally, might we come to that deeper gratitude of heart which Catherine evinced in her daily life for all the ways in which God’s love surrounds us?

## THE PRINCIPLE OF MERCY

The term *mercy* must be correctly understood. The term has good and authentic connotations, but it can also have inadequate connotations, even dangerous ones. It suggests a sense of compassion. The danger is that it may seem to denote a sheer sentiment, without a praxis to accompany it. It may connote “works of mercy.” Here the risk is that the practitioner of such works may feel exempt from the duty of analyzing the causes of the suffering that these works relieve. Mercy can connote the alleviation of individual needs but entail the risk of abandoning the transformation of structures. It may connote “parental” attitudes, but risk paternalism. In order to avoid the limitations of the concept of mercy and the misunderstandings to which it is open, we shall speak not simply of mercy, but of the principle of mercy — just as Ernst Bloch spoke not simply of hope, as if he were referring merely to one categorical reality among others, but of the hope principle.

By the principle of mercy, we understand here a specific love, which, while standing at the origin of a process, also remains present and active throughout the process, endowing it with a particular direction and shaping the various

elements that compose it. We hold that this principle of mercy is the basic principle of the activity of God and Jesus, and therefore ought to be that of the activity of the church.

### MERCY DEFINES THE HUMAN BEING

When Jesus wishes to show what it is to be an ideal, total human being, he narrates the parable of the good Samaritan. The moment is a solemn one in the gospel. More is at stake here than mere curiosity as to which is the greatest of the commandments: This parable is a presentation of what it is to be a human being. The ideal, total human being is represented as one who has seen someone else lying wounded in the ditch along the road, has re-acted, and has helped the victim in every way possible. The parable does not tell us what was going through the Samaritan's head at the time, or with what ultimate finality he acted. The only thing we are told is that he did what he did because he was "moved to pity."

The ideal human being, the complete human being, is the one who interiorizes, absorbs in her innards, the suffering of another — in the case of the parable, unjustly afflicted suffering — in such a way that this interiorized suffering becomes a part of her, is transformed into an internal principle, the first and the last, of her activity. Mercy, as re-action, becomes the fundamental action of the total human being. Thus,

this mercy is more than just one phenomenon in human reality among many. It directly defines the human being. To be sure, mercy does not suffice to define Jesus: He is a being of knowing, hoping, and celebrating, as well. On the other hand, it is absolutely necessary that mercy come into his definition. For Jesus, to be a human being is to react with mercy. Without this reaction, the essence of the human is vitiated in its root, as occurred with the priest and the Levite who “saw him and went on.” . . .

Mercy, then, is the first thing and the last. It is more than a categorical practice of the “works of mercy.” True, the practice of mercy can and ought to include these works. But mercy itself is something far more radical. Mercy is a basic attitude toward the suffering of another, whereby one reacts to eradicate that suffering for the sole reason that it exists, and in the conviction that, in this reaction to the ought-not-be of another’s suffering, one’s own being, without any possibility of subterfuge, hangs in the balance.

### THE NEED TO PRACTICE MERCY

Despite the fact that his mercy is the cause of his condemnation, Jesus proclaims, “Blest are they who show mercy.” The reason Jesus gives his hearers in the Gospel of Matthew could seem to fall in the category of reward: “Mercy shall be theirs” (Matthew 5:7). But the deeper

reason is an intrinsic one. She who lives according to the principle of mercy realizes — renders real — the profoundest element of what it is to be human, and comes to resemble Jesus (the *true* human being of dogma) and her heavenly Parent.

Herein, we may well say, consists the blessedness, the felicity, that Jesus offers. “Blest” and happy are you “who show mercy,” you “single-hearted,” you “peacemakers,” you who “hunger and thirst for holiness” or justice, you who are “persecuted for holiness’ sake” — you “poor.” Scandalous words, but enlightening. Jesus wants human beings’ happiness, and the symbol of that happiness consists in their coming together at the table of sharing. But as long as the great table of the brothers and sisters of the Reign of God is missing from history, mercy must be practiced. It is mercy, Jesus is telling us, that, for the interim, produces joy, gladness, and felicity.

JOHN PAUL II, RICH IN MERCY  
(DIVES IN MISERICORDIA)

## CONVERSION—A SIGN OF MERCY

What took place in the relationship between the father and the son in Christ’s parable [of the prodigal son] is not to be evaluated “from the outside.” Our prejudices about mercy are mostly

the result of appraising them only from the outside. At times it happens that by following this method of evaluation we see in mercy above all a relationship of inequality between the one offering it and the one receiving it. And, in consequence, we are quick to deduce that mercy belittles the receiver, that it offends the dignity of man. The parable of the prodigal son shows that the reality is different: the relationship of mercy is based on the common experience of that good which is man, on the common experience of the dignity that is proper to him. This common experience makes the prodigal son begin to see himself and his actions in their full truth (this vision in truth is a genuine form of humility); on the other hand, for this very reason he becomes a particular good for his father: the father sees so clearly the good which has been achieved thanks to a mysterious radiation of truth and love, that he seems to forget all the evil which the son had committed.

The parable of the prodigal son expresses in a simple but profound way the reality of conversion. Conversion is the most concrete expression of the working of love and of the presence of mercy in the human world. The true and proper meaning of mercy does not consist in looking, however penetratingly and compassionately, at moral, physical or material evil: mercy is manifested in its true and proper aspect when it

restores to value, promotes and draws good from all the forms of evil existing in the world and in man. Understood in this way, mercy constitutes the fundamental content of the messianic message of Christ and the constitutive power of his mission. His disciples and followers understood and practiced mercy in the same way. Mercy never ceased to reveal itself, in their hearts and in their actions, as an especially creative proof of the love which does not allow itself to be “conquered by evil,” but overcomes “evil with good.” (Romans 12:21) The genuine face of mercy has to be ever revealed anew. In spite of many prejudices, mercy seems particularly necessary for our times.

### MARY AND THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S MERCY

Mary is also the one who obtained mercy in a particular and exceptional way, as no other person has. At the same time, still in an exceptional way, she made possible with the sacrifice of her heart her own sharing in revealing God’s mercy. This sacrifice is intimately linked with the Cross of her Son, at the foot of which she stood on Calvary. Her sacrifice is a unique sharing in the revelation of mercy, that is, a sharing in the absolute fidelity of God to his own love, to the covenant that he willed from eternity and that he entered into in time with man, with the people, with humanity; it is a sharing in



that revelation that was definitively fulfilled through the Cross. No one has experienced, to the same degree as the Mother of the Crucified One, the mystery of the Cross, the overwhelming encounter of divine transcendent justice with love: that “kiss” given by mercy to justice. (Psalm 85:10) No one has received into his heart, as much as Mary did, that mystery, that truly divine dimension of the redemption effected on Calvary by means of the death of the Son, together with the sacrifice of her maternal heart, together with her definitive *fiat*.

Mary, then, is the one who has the deepest knowledge of the mystery of God’s mercy. She knows its price, she knows how great it is. In this sense, we call her the Mother of Mercy, our Lady of Mercy, or Mother of Divine Mercy; in each one of these titles there is a deep theological meaning, for they express the special preparation of her soul, of her whole personality, so that she was able to perceive, through the complex events, first of Israel, then of every individual and of the whole of humanity, that mercy of which “from generation to generation” (Luke 1:50) people become sharers according to the eternal design of the Most Holy Trinity.

## RECONCILIATION

The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy — the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and of the Redeemer — and when she brings people close to the sources of the Savior’s mercy, of which she is the trustee and dispenser. Of great significance in this area is constant meditation on the word of God, and above all conscious and mature participation in the Eucharist and in the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation. The Eucharist brings us ever nearer to that love which is more powerful than death: “For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,” we proclaim not only the death of the Redeemer but also his Resurrection, “until he comes” in glory. (1 Corinthians 11:26) The same Eucharistic rite, celebrated in memory of him who in his messianic mission revealed the Father to us by means of his words and his Cross, attests to the inexhaustible love by virtue of which he desires always to be united with us and present in our midst, coming to meet every human heart. It is the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation that prepares the way for each individual, even those weighed down with great faults. In this sacrament each person can experience mercy in a unique way, that is, the love which is more powerful than sin.

## CONVERSION

Mercy in itself, as a perfection of the infinite God, is also infinite. Also infinite therefore and inexhaustible is the Father's readiness to receive the prodigal children who return to his home. Infinite are the readiness and power of forgiveness which flow continually from the marvelous value of the sacrifice of the Son. No human sin can prevail over this power or even limit it. On the part of man only a lack of good will can limit it, a lack of readiness to be converted and to repent. . . .

Therefore, the Church professes and proclaims conversion. Conversion to God always consists in discovering his mercy, that is, in discovering that love which is patient and kind (1 Corinthians 13:4) as only the Creator and Father can be; the love to which the "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:3) is faithful to the uttermost consequences in the history of his covenant with man; even to the Cross and to the death and Resurrection of the Son. Conversion to God is always the fruit of the "rediscovery" of this Father, who is rich in mercy.

Authentic knowledge of the God of mercy, the God of tender love, is a constant and inexhaustible source of conversion, not only as a momentary interior act but also as a permanent attitude, as a state of mind. Those

who come to know God in this way, who “see” him in this way, can live only in a state of being continually converted to him. They live, therefore, *in statu conversionis*; and it is this state of conversion which marks out the most profound element of the pilgrimage of every man and woman on earth *in statu viatoris*. It is obvious that the Church professes the mercy of God, revealed in the crucified and risen Christ, not only by the word of her teaching but above all through the deepest pulsation of the life of the whole People of God. By means of this testimony of life, the Church fulfills the mission proper to the People of God, the mission which is a sharing in and, in a sense, a continuation of the messianic mission of Christ himself.

### THE RECIPROCAL NATURE OF MERCY

Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that he is also called “to practice mercy” towards others: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7) The Church sees in these words a call to action, and she tries to practice mercy. All the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount indicate the way of conversion and of reform of life, but the one referring to those who are merciful is particularly eloquent in this regard. Man attains to the merciful love of God, his mercy, to the extent that he himself

is interiorly transformed in the spirit of that love toward his neighbor.

This authentically evangelical process is not just a spiritual transformation realized once and for all: it is a whole lifestyle, an essential and continuous characteristic of the Christian vocation. It consists in the constant discovery and persevering practice of love as a unifying and also elevating power despite all difficulties of a psychological or social nature: it is a question, in fact, of a merciful love which, by its essence, is a creative love. In reciprocal relationships between persons merciful love is never a unilateral act or process. Even in the cases in which everything would seem to indicate that only one party is giving and offering, and the other only receiving and taking, . . . in reality the one who gives is always also a beneficiary. In any case, he too can easily find himself in the position of the one who receives, who obtains a benefit, who experiences merciful love; he too can find himself the object of mercy.

### PRAYERS FOR MERCY

The Church proclaims the truth of God's mercy revealed in the crucified and risen Christ, and she professes it in various ways. Furthermore, she seeks to practice mercy toward people through people, and she sees in this an indispensable condition for solicitude for a better and

“more human” world, today and tomorrow. However, at no time and in no historical period — especially at a moment as critical as our own — can the Church forget the prayer that is a cry for the mercy of God amid the many forms of evil which weigh upon humanity and threaten it. Precisely this is the fundamental right and duty of the Church in Christ Jesus, her right and duty toward God and toward humanity. The more the human conscience succumbs to secularization, loses its sense of the very meaning of the word “mercy,” moves away from God and distances itself from the mystery of mercy, the more the church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy “with loud cries.” (Hebrews 5:7) These “loud cries” should be the mark of the Church of our times, cries uttered to God to implore his mercy, the certain manifestation of which she professes and proclaims as having already come in Jesus crucified and risen, that is, in the Paschal Mystery. It is this mystery which bears within itself the most complete revelation of mercy, that is, of that love which is more powerful than death, more powerful than sin and every evil, the love which lifts man up when he falls into the abyss and frees him from the greatest threats.

## THE SERVICE OF THE POOR

The apostolic orientation of Mother Catherine's prayer life was understood by her as belonging to the particular charism which the Spirit had given her for the Church. Her prayer life was the stable basis of her world and from it issued her courage to face the demands, the challenges and the opposition she encountered. She taught and embodied in her own self an acceptance of the will of God; an acceptance transcending natural human reactions, emotions and abilities. Thus it was that armed with faith and with the power to communicate almost unlimited compassion and hope, she pursued her Mission of Mercy, daily responding to the words of the Christ whom she carried within her: 'As long as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to Me.' (Matthew 25:40) From this stemmed Mother Catherine's unique vow of whole-hearted service of Christ in the poor. Measured against the social *mores* of her time, her capacity to serve the poor without any trace of condescension (cf. Romans 12:6) is one of her striking spiritual qualities.

If Mother Catherine was aware of her own limitations and the limits of the resources at

her disposal, she was alive to the power of God. She experienced this power particularly in the Mass and the Sacraments and in the abiding presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Eucharist and His constant companionship through each day. Even in difficulties, she never felt alone.

### PRAYER—CATHERINE'S FIRST PRIORITY

Prayer was Catherine McAuley's first priority, never her last resort, and she liked to remind her Sisters that 'always before He undertook anything, Jesus Christ prepared Himself for it by prayer, and by prayer He also concluded it.' (*Retreat Instructions*, p. 104) Following His example, therefore, every decision she took was index-linked with prayer, each word of her Rule was prayed over before being committed to paper and each of her foundations was a prayer-event, established in the Thirty Days Prayer. Explaining this prayer-basis of all her actions, Mother Catherine pointed to — among others — St. Albert the Great who declared that 'in Divine Knowledge greater advancement was made by prayer than by study. . . . *I desired to have a right knowledge and God gave it to me; I invoked the Lord and He filled me with the Spirit of Wisdom.*' (Wisdom 7:7) ("The Spirit of the Institute")

Whenever occasion presented itself, Mother Catherine repeated again and again that 'of all



other gifts, prayer must come from God; hence we must beg it continually, with a profound humility and an untiring patience.’ (*Familiar Instructions*, p. 52) Then, using one of her favorite garden similes she gave one of her most intimate definitions of prayer:

Prayer is a plant, the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian, but its growth depends on the care we take to nourish it. If neglected, it will die. If nourished by constant practice, it will blossom and produce fruit in abundance. (*Retreat Instructions*, p. 90)

## MEDITATION ON THE LIFE OF JESUS

On a theological level, Catherine McAuley’s spirituality was based on her fidelity to the Church’s deposit of Faith. Her words to the Sisters were unambiguous on this point: ‘It imports us to be well instructed in the doctrine of the Church in order to teach the same. Let us frequently question the sick and all whom we instruct on the Principal Mysteries.’ (*Familiar Instructions*, pp. 15, 20) The asceticism of her spirituality may be condensed into three words, Imitation of Christ. Her choice of the *Psalter* as her favorite prayer reveals the central place Christ our Lord occupied in her spirituality. To lead her Sisters to imitate Him in charity, humility, meekness and simplicity was the aim

of all her conferences. ‘Even had we lacked this certain evidence of her devotion to the *Psalter of Jesus*,’ wrote Father Burke-Savage, ‘we could have deduced as much, for Catherine could never have spoken so easily and so beautifully of the changing scenes of Our Lord’s earthly life without constant meditation on them.’ (Burke-Savage, p. 387) Among other counsels, Mother Catherine advised her Sisters that the life and maxims of Jesus Christ should be as a book always open before us, from which we are to learn all that is necessary to know: as a glass in which we will clearly see our defects, and as a seal whose image we are to impress on our hearts. (*Retreat Instructions*, pp. 87 – 8)

### MERCY—CATHERINE’S CHARISM

Catherine McAuley’s spiritual theme song was MERCY. She saw herself before God as one who received everything from His divine bounty; a beneficiary of His redemptive love, who felt obliged to be a channel of this Mercy towards others. In a very real sense she endeavored to make ‘social and communal’ her own ‘individual and interior’ experience of God’s Mercy (*Dives in Misericordia*, n.4) as she opened her heart to Him and her hands to her neighbor. It was therefore a special feature of her charism to interpret for those with whom she came in contact the Gospel message of mercy and to

spread the good news of God's unchanging love for His people.

By giving her congregation the title of Sisters of Mercy she guided her spiritual daughters towards the compassionate and redemptive love of God, of Christ, as expounded in Scripture, as the ideal which should motivate their lives:

“By our vocation . . . we are engaged to comfort and instruct the sick poor of Christ. This is the principal reason why we are called *Sisters of Mercy*. . . . Oh! What an ineffable consolation to serve Christ Himself in the person of the poor and to walk in the very same path which He trod.” (*Familiar Instructions*, p. 16)

The call to the perfection of charity was for Catherine McAuley a call to be merciful as the Heavenly Father is merciful. This made it possible for her to weave the peace, the goodness, the compassion and the tenderness of Christ into the way she worked out her apostolate; an apostolate which could be described as sustained witness to the ‘loving kindness [tender mercy] of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high’ (Luke 1:78). And as she counselled her Sisters along this way of Mercy, she herself performed the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy ‘with great charity and tenderness, with energy and sweetness, with great humility and diffidence in self.’ (*Retreat Instructions*, p. 63)

## MERCY AND JUSTICE

Mother Catherine's insistence on and provision of good education for girls, middle-class as well as poor children, was a direct challenge to the injustices of her time. Her practical programmes were hitherto unheard-of social services which broke the barriers of indifference, making them give way to social caring and compassion. Her sense of justice allied to mercy made her as convinced of the quality of presence as of performance; hence she stressed the how of things rather than the *why* . . . . Her congregation was the canonical expression of her vision of promoting social justice, of providing the poor with the services she believed they needed and had a right to, and of doing this on as comprehensive and as flexible a scale as possible. . . . Her ministry of Mercy/Justice was non-judgmental: 'It is better to relieve a hundred impostors, if there be any such, than to suffer one really distressed person to be sent away empty.' (*Familiar Instructions*, p. 136.) Justice combined with mercy prompted her to immediacy: 'The poor need help today, not next week,' and to a determination to soldier on in spite of the importunities of some of her Sisters, to whom she put the question: 'What could excuse us before God for casting off any charge which we had freely undertaken, except compelled by necessity to do so?' (Letter to S.M. Angela Dunne, December 20, 1837)

## PRIORITIES FOR MERCY

Catherine McAuley has been described as a ‘woman who allowed the experiences of her life to speak to her; and she listened for ministry out of this discernment . . . . She was quick to be flexible and quick to respond to need: all with a deep faith in the providence of God working in her and forming and re-forming her according to the changing needs of the people whom she saw around her.’ (Mary Ann Scofield, rsm, “Toward a Spirituality of Mercy”) From her discernment, her reading of the signs of the times, she was aware of a great hunger for God among the spiritually malnourished Irish poor. For this reason, her mediation of Mercy was as much a *praying* as a *doing* apostolate. Prayer was the basis of her work in the school, on the visitation and in the House of Mercy. Because of this, she was most specific on what she looked for in those wishing to join her. As a priority, a candidate must have an ardent desire to be united with God and serve the poor . . . . She must feel a particular interest in the sick and dying . . . must show a mild countenance expressive of sympathy and patience, reserve and recollection. (Letter to Rev. Gerald Doyle, September 5, 1836)

Thus did Catherine McAuley enumerate the spiritual and human qualities required of those who would live their religious lives among people, . . . serving the poor for love of God.

And she was careful to point out—quoting Saint John Chrysostom and other Church Fathers—that the “Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, which draw religious from a life of contemplation, so far from separating them from the love of God, unite them more closely to Him and render them more valuable in His holy service.” (“The Spirit of the Institute”)

### APOSTOLIC SPIRITUALITY

The faith-vision of Catherine McAuley’s apostolic spirituality was that Christ would consider as done to Himself whatever should be done to others. (Matthew 25:40) This, in turn, convinced her that she should be herself a sign of His presence among His people, just as she expected to encounter Him in the many areas encompassed by her ministry of Mercy. In a very real sense her Apostolic Spirituality was part of her search for personal union with God, for the ability to converse with Him at any time and place, for a contemplative consciousness. . . .

Mother Catherine’s apostolic spirituality was marked by her ability to create and maintain inner spiritual space, to be constantly aware of the mystery of God and to be able to find His touch everywhere in the world of people, of their occupations and of their miseries, as she strove to live the life and holiness of the Church according to the radicalness of the Gospel.

Jesus' criterion of concern and compassion was the standard of her apostolic spirituality which taught her how to encounter God in her world and to make that encounter efficacious through her ministry to Him in others. . . . Her apostolic spirituality may be said to have effectively translated the Gospel into the idiom of her time and to have conveyed this ideal to others.

#### PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION AS THE HEART OF THE APOSTOLATE

From her earliest years Catherine McAuley's life was seamed with prayer and was centered on Christ, outside of whom she declared she sought *nothing*. (*Thoughts from the Spiritual Conferences of Catherine McAuley*, p. 36) As she understood it, putting on Christ meant that she should be 'gentle, patient, hard-working, humble, obedient, charitable and, above all, simple and joyous.' (*Familiar Instructions, passim.*) Her own life-style and subsequent structure of religious life were based on a deep level of prayer as the very heart of the apostolate, while her guiding principles were faith in a triune God (*Thoughts from the Spiritual Conferences of Catherine McAuley*, p. 21.), confidence in His promises, an all-embracing love and a joyful heart that was constantly open to the Spirit. She

incorporated in her own life and in her recommended way of life for her Sisters the most basic and universal of Christ's teachings, His Gospel of Love. The main pillars supporting her prayer life were solitude, contemplation of the mysteries of salvation and her understanding of her apostolate as prayer.

She was uncompromising in upholding prayer and contemplation as the very heart of the apostolate. She was acutely aware that the deepest human need is the need for God and she was convinced that the primary apostolate of the Sister of Mercy was to portray Christ. Her idealism led her to try and alleviate human need of every kind; her realism convinced her that the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are a means of closer union with God. Hence prayer and service were to flow together reciprocally in the life of the Sister of Mercy. By conscientiously following this life-style in all its details, Catherine McAuley became a *Lumen Christi*, lighting up the darkness of ignorance and squalor which circumscribed the lives of the poor in her day.

### CATHERINE'S SANCTITY

“Catherine McAuley’s was a sanctity both great and attractive, for she met the great challenges of her day with an unflagging faith



that found its expression in an immense peace and a playful lightheartedness. In all the travel and turmoil of her life as a Foundress, she was at home within herself with the indwelling Lord. She radiated the tranquility of that inner intimacy, while the unseen realities to which her faith gave her access allowed her to treat lightly and good-humouredly the surface happenings that would have daunted another. . . . she showed how every experience and event can be shot through with grace and be shaped so as to shine bright with the gladness of Redemption.” (Martin Nolan, *osa*)

#### “SWEET MERCY”

Sweet Mercy! Soothing, patient, kind:  
softens the high and rears the fallen mind;  
knows with just rein and even hand to guide  
between false fear and arbitrary pride.  
Not easily provoked, she soon forgives:  
feels love for all, and by a look relieves.  
Soft peace she brings wherever she arrives,  
removes our anguish and reforms our lives;  
makes the rough paths of peevish nature even,  
and opens in each heart a little Heaven.

*Catherine McAuley*

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**CONVERSION** • page 944

John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *The Mercy of God* (Dives in Misericordia). Boston: St. Paul Books and Media, 1980, pp. 40 – 41.

**CONVERSION — A SIGN OF MERCY** • page 939

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**COURTESY** • page 929

Sullivan, Mary C., rsm. “Welcoming the Stranger: The Kenosis of Catherine McAuley,” *MAST* 6, no. 3 (Summer 1996), p. 15.

**CROSS AND CROWN** • page 903

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**DESIRING GOD'S WILL** • page 908

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**DEVOTION TO MARY** • page 888

McAuley, Catherine. *Familiar Instructions of Rev. Mother McAuley*. Saint Louis: Vincentian Press, 1927, p. 86.

**THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN** • page 916

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**THE EFFECTS OF LENTEN MEDITATION** • page 913

Neumann, Mary Ignatia, RSM, ed. *Letters of Catherine McAuley, 1827–1841*. Baltimore: Helicon, 1969, pp. 333–34.

**THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS** • page 893

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**FEMININE QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP** • page 907

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**GOOD TODAY, BETTER TOMORROW** • page 911

Neumann, Mary Ignatia, RSM, ed. *Letters of Catherine McAuley, 1827–1841*. Baltimore: Helicon, 1969, p. 310.

**GRATITUDE TO GOD** • page 879

McAuley, Catherine. *Retreat Instructions of Mother Mary Catherine McAuley*. Comp. Mary Teresa Purcell, rsm. Ed. [Mary Bertrand Degnan, rsm]. Westminster: Newman, 1952, p. 33.

**HEARTS CENTERED IN GOD** • page 911

Neumann, Mary Ignatia, rsm, ed. *Letters of Catherine McAuley, 1827–1841*. Baltimore: Helicon, 1969, p. 273.

**HUMILITY — THE WAY OF GOD** • page 878

McAuley, Catherine. *Retreat Instructions of Mother Mary Catherine McAuley*. Comp. Mary Teresa Purcell, rsm. Ed. [Mary Bertrand Degnan, rsm]. Westminster: Newman, 1952, p. 25.

**THE LIFE AND MAXIMS OF JESUS** • page 881

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**LOVE AND UNION** • page 918

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**LOVE ONE ANOTHER** • page 890

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**MARY AND THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S MERCY** • page 941

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**MEDITATION ON THE LIFE OF JESUS** • page 950

Bolster, M. Angela, rsm. *Documentary Study for the Canonization Process of the Servant of God Catherine McAuley, Founder of the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy 1778–1841* (Positio Super Virtutibus). Rome, 1985, p. 791.

**MERCY AND JUSTICE** • page 953

Bolster, M. Angela, rsm. *Documentary Study for the Canonization Process of the Servant of God Catherine McAuley, Founder of the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy 1778–1841* (Positio Super Virtutibus). Rome, 1985, p. 822.

**MERCY AS A VALUE** • page 931

Smith, Patricia, rsm. “Mercy Values Today: Ever Ancient, Ever New,” *MAST* 4, no. 3 (Summer 1994), p. 10.

**MERCY AT WORK IN CATHERINE’S LIFE** • page 898

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**MERCY — CATHERINE’S CHARISM** • page 951

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**MERCY DEFINES THE HUMAN BEING** • page 937

Sobrino, Jon. *The Principle of Mercy*. New York: Orbis Books, 1994, pp. 17–18.

**MERCY IS EVERYTHING** • page 924

Daly, Mary, rsm. “Catherine McAuley’s Original Rule and her Understanding of the Order of Mercy,” *MAST* 3, no. 1 (Fall 1992), p. 15.

**MERCY, THE PRINCIPAL PATH** • page 916

McAuley, Catherine. “Rule and Constitutions of the Religious Sisters of Mercy,” in Mary C. Sullivan, rsm, *Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1995, p. 297.

**MINISTRY OF COURTEOUS PRESENCE** • page 897

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**THE NEED TO PRACTICE MERCY** . page 938

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**THE OBJECT OF THE ORDER** . page 919

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**OUR NEED FOR MERCY** . page 934

Bumpus, Mary Rose, rsm. "Open Receptivity to the Mercy of God," *MAST* 6, no. 2 (Spring 1996), pp. 62 – 63.

**THE PASCHAL MYSTERY — FOOD FOR CATHERINE'S SPIRIT** . page 904

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**THE PERFECTION OF ORDINARY ACTIONS** . page 917

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**PRACTICING CORDIALITY** . page 880

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**PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION AS THE HEART OF THE APOSTOLATE** . page 956

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**PRAYER — CATHERINE'S FIRST PRIORITY** . page 949

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**PRAYER IS A PLANT** . page 882

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**PRAYERS FOR MERCY** . page 946

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**THE PRINCIPLE OF MERCY** • page 936

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**PRIORITIES FOR MERCY** • page 954

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**QUAKER RESPECT FOR WOMEN** • page 896

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**THE QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS** • page 927

Carroll, Elizabeth, rsm. “The Spirit of Mother McAuley, Its Relevance to Contemporary Challenges,” *MAST* 6, no. 3 (Summer 1996), pp. 5 – 6.

**THE RECIPROCAL NATURE OF MERCY** • page 945

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**RECITATION OF THE OFFICE** • page 885

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**RECONCILIATION** • page 943

John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *The Mercy of God* (Dives in Misericordia). Boston: St. Paul Books and Media, 1980, p. 141.

**A REFLECTION ON CATHERINE’S DEATH** • page 882

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**REFLECTION ON THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST** • page 887

McAuley, Catherine. *Familiar Instructions of Rev. Mother McAuley*. Saint Louis: Vincentian Press, 1927, 72 – 73.

**RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE SISTERS** • page 891

McAuley, Catherine. *Familiar Instructions of Rev. Mother McAuley*. Saint Louis: Vincentian Press, 1927, p. 109.

**RENEWAL OF VOWS** • page 887

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**REQUISITES FOR A SISTER OF MERCY** • page 895

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**THE REWARDS OF ZEALOUS SERVICE** • page 884

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**SERVICE OF THE POOR** • page 885

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**THE SERVICE OF THE POOR** • page 948

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**SICK AND DECEASED SISTERS** • page 892

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**SILENCE** • page 888

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**THE SPIRIT OF UNION** • page 880

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**SPIRITUAL RETREAT** • page 886

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**STEWARD OF GOD’S MERCY** • page 893

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**“SWEET MERCY”** • page 958

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**TENDER LOVE FOR THE POOR** • page 915

McAuley, Catherine. “Rule and Constitutions of the Religious Sisters of Mercy,” in Mary C. Sullivan, rsm, *Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1995, p. 295.



**TO COMFORT AND ANIMATE** • page 921

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**TRANSLATING PAIN INTO COMPASSION** • page 899

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**TRUST IN GOD** • page 905

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**TRUST IN PROVIDENCE** • page 914

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**UNION AND CHARITY** • page 901

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**UNION WITH CHRIST** • page 926

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**UNION WITH GOD** • page 889

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**THE VOW OF SERVICE** • page 902

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**WORKS OF MERCY** • page 920

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# ALTERNATE OR SUPPLEMENTARY PSALMS AND CANTICLES



The following psalms and canticles are appropriate for special needs and seasons. Page references are given in the indices.

*Psalms of Praise and Thanksgiving:* 8; 104:24–35; 113; 146; 150

*Penitential and Intercessory Psalms:* 5; 22:2–22; 31; 86; 137

## FOR ADVENT

*Psalms:* 24; 45; 108; 122

*Canticles:* Isaiah 26; Philippians 2:6–11; Habakuk 3:2–4, 13a, 15–19

## FOR CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY

*Psalms:* 104:24–35; 113; 138; 146

*Canticles:* Tobit 13:8–11, 13–15; Isaiah 9:1–6; Isaiah 66: 10–14a; 1 Timothy 3:16

## FOR LENT

*Psalms:* 5; 22:2–22; 31; 146

*Canticles*: Isaiah 66:10–14a; Jeremiah 14:17–21;  
Ezekiel 36:24–28; Hosea 6:1–6; Philippians 2:6  
–11; 1 Peter 2:21–24

**FOR EASTER/PENTECOST**

*Psalms*: 8; 115; 135:1–21; 150

*Canticles*: Daniel 3:56–88; Ephesians 1:3–10; 1  
Timothy 3:16; Revelation 4:11, 5:9–10, 12;  
Revelation 19:1–7

# INDEX OF PSALMS AND CANTICLES



Reading	Page	Tone			
			3	31	218
Exodus 15:1 – 18	200	2		32	567
Deuteronomy			4		
32:1 – 12	194	9		33	458,
1 Samuel 2:1 – 10	133, 810	1	615	1	
Tobit				34	713
13:1 – 8	221	9	4		
13:8 – 11, 13 – 15	182	9		34:1 – 11	488
Psalms			4		
5	549	3		34:1 – 21	824
	8	181,	4		
740	1			40	705
	16	560,	6, 9		
884	4			40:1 – 12, 14 – 18	89
	18:2 – 4, 26 – 32	619	6, 9		
1				42	513, 600,
	19:2 – 7	85 1	858	3	
	20	299		43	608
7			3		
	22:1 – 22	323		45	814
3			7		
	23	497,			
729	4				
	24	80, 304,			
473, 557	9				
	27	544,			
866	4				
	27:1 – 14	168			
4					
	28	311			
5					
	29	673			
1					
	30	573			
4					

Reading	Page	Tone			
				100	571
	45:2–18	173	1		
7			701	103	213, 508,
	45:3, 7–16, 18	820		1	
7			1	104:24–35	552
	46	581			
2			5	108	717
	47	564			
2			1	111	649
	51	577, 630,			
679, 732	3		697	112	103,
	62	611		8	
4			834	113	412, 464,
	63:1–9	493,		1	
541	3			115	596
	67	660	6		
6			17–19	116:1–9, 12–14,	
	68:2–12, 18–20	502		634	4
2			4	116:12–19	318
	68:2–21, 25–36	186			
2			1	117	408
	81	623			
9			591	118	482,
	84	652		6	
2					
	86	839			
3					
	87	205			
2					
	92	638			
4					
	93	415,			
519	2				
	95	193,			
694	2				
	96	710			
2					
	97	531			
2					
	98	199,			
666	2				

# INDEX OF SCRIPTURAL READINGS

Reading	Page	Reading	Page
Genesis 49:8 – 10	31, 61	4:2 – 3	129
Exodus 16:4 – 7a	499	7:10 – 14	817
19:4 – 6a	247	7:10 – 15	35, 65
Leviticus 23:4 – 72	71	9:6 – 7	125, 166
Deuteronomy 4:7 – 10	485	11:1 – 5	49, 76
4:29b – 31	255	30:19 – 21	293
4:39–40	718	43:1b – 4a	612
5:16	102	43:9 – 12	605
10:12 – 13	452	45:5 – 8	39, 69
26:16 – 19	228	45:22 – 24a, 25	154
30:2 – 32	632	49:8 – 10	146
Samuel 22:17 – 20	842	49:14 – 16a	707
22:26 – 29	703	50:4b – 8a	285
1 Kings 3:9 – 12a	426	52:7 – 9, 10b	178
8:51 – 53	231	52:13 – 15	326
Nehemiah 8:9b, 10b	244	53:11b – 12	235
Tobit 4:15a, 16a, 19a	565	55:1 – 24	945
Judith 16:13 – 15	658	5:1 – 3a, 10 – 11	554
Job 42:1 – 5	698	58:6 – 11	223
Proverbs 31:10, 20, 25–26, 30–31	280	61:1 – 2a	196
Wisdom 6:12 – 16	428	61:1 – 2a, 3a	470
7:26 – 30	158	61:10 – 11	162
11:23 – 24a	259	61:10–11; 62:4–5	821
Sirach 6:18 – 19, 26 – 28	874	62:11b – 12a	150
15:1 – 34	30	65:1b – 3a	297
Isaiah 1:16 – 18	239	66:1 – 2	571
2:3 – 4	27, 47, 57	Jeremiah 11:19 – 20	276
		15:15 – 16	602
		23:16–18, 21–22	434
		29:11 – 14	667
		30:21 – 22	43, 73
		31:15	117
		Baruch 4:21 – 24	301

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Page</b>
Ezekiel 34:11-12, 14-16	620
36:25 - 27, 28b	594
37:12b - 14	646
Daniel 7:13 - 14	528
Hosea 2:14 - 16, 19 - 20	511
5:15b - 6:3	332
Joel 2:12 - 13	251
2:19a, 21-23a,	
26a, 27a	711
Micah 5:2, 4 - 5a	143
6:8	872
Zechariah 1:3b - 4	264
2:10 - 11	811
9:9	308
12:10	273
Malachi 3:1	210
Acts 1:12 - 13a, 14	138, 454
2:14 - 17	466
2:32, 36	396
4:11 - 12	384
4:19 - 20	112
5:30 - 32	368
6:2 - 5a	107
10:37 - 39a	164, 203
10:40 - 43	344, 404
13:26 - 29	313
13:30 - 33	356
Romans 5:1 - 5	725
5:5b - 9a	505
5:8 - 9	278
5:10 - 11	388
6:3 - 5	392
6:8 - 11	360
8:1-2, 10-11	737
8:3 - 4	114
8:10 - 11	364
8:14 - 17	450

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Page</b>
8:18 - 21	727
Romans 8:22 - 27	539
8:35 - 39	617
10:8b - 10	352
11:33 - 36	156, 480
12:1 - 2	249, 847
12:9 - 12	664
12:13 - 18	639
13:11 - 14	24, 53
13:11b - 14	558
14:7 - 9	372
14:17 - 19	625
15:1 - 65	821
Corinthians 1:4 - 9	33, 63
1:27b - 30	282
2:6 - 10a	635
2:9 - 13	437
3:16 - 17, 21 -23	661
4:53	7, 67
6:19 - 20	441
9:24 - 25	245
10:16 - 17	490
11:23 - 26	320
12:7 - 11	461
12:12 - 13	191
12:12 - 13,27	382
15:3 - 6	402
15:20 - 22	393
15:51 - 57	861
2Corinthians 1:18 - 22	443
3:4 - 6	432
4:7 - 12	684
5:14 - 15	405
6:1 - 4a	242, 269
8:9	97
12:7b - 10	681
Galatians 2:19 - 20	734
3:27 - 28	377

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Page</b>
4:3 – 7	82, 134
5:22 – 26	418
6:9 – 10	869
Ephesians 2:3b – 5	119
2:4 – 5a, 6 – 8	385
2:4 – 7	409
3:14 – 19	423
3:17 – 21	670
4:1 – 6	853
4:1b – 6	550
4:22a, 23 – 24	398
4:29 – 32	579
4:32 – 5:2	287
Philippians 1:27 – 28	445
2:2 – 4, 14 – 16	688
2:6 – 7a	104
3:7 – 11	290
3:20b – 21	9, 59
4:4 – 7	25, 54
Colossians 1:3 – 6	589
1:9 – 10	439
1:11 – 14	400
1:13 – 16	148
1:21 – 23	730
1:24 – 27	546
2:9 – 10, 12	380
3:1 – 4	376
3:12 – 15	868
3:15 – 177	151
Thessalonians 5:2 – 6	609
5:13b – 19	869
5:19 – 24	22, 51
5:23 – 24	874
2Thessalonians 2:13 – 14	598
1Timothy 6:11b – 14	632
2Timothy 1:3 – 7	447
1:9 – 12a, 13	171

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Page</b>
2:8, 11 – 13	390, 695
Titus 2:11 – 14	533
3:4 – 7	184
3:4 – 8	870
Hebrews 1:1 – 4	87, 121
2:9 – 10	289
4:12 – 13	643
4:15 – 16	215
5:7 – 10	370
7:24 – 26	362
8:1b – 3a; 9:14	354
9:24	413
10:5 – 7	206
10:12 – 14	349
10:35 – 36	267
13:5 – 8	874
James 1:19b, 21b, 22 – 25	568
2:12 – 17	653
2:14 – 17	252
4:7 – 8, 10	233
5:7 – 11	41, 71
5:16, 19 – 20	237
1Peter 1:3 – 7	650
1:6 – 9	575
1:17b – 23	627
2:4 – 5	358
2:9 – 10	374
2:21 – 24	295
3:8 – 11	677
3:18	416
3:18, 22	366
4:8 – 11a	674
2Peter 1:3 – 4	127
1:10 – 11	586
1:19 – 21	692
3:8b – 10	45, 74