

Preparation

- Consider and set your “prayer space”
 - If you are praying alone, consider finding a quiet, prayerful space. If you are praying with your family or other members of a household, consider gathering around a coffee table or dining table.
 - Add optional items that may enhance your prayer if you desire: a small table with a cloth, a lit candle, a cross, holy images or statues.
 - You may want to have a journal available to write down reflections or words as you pray.
 - Lighting affects our mood. Consider dimming the lights or using a lamp instead of bright overheads.
- If you are praying in a group, you may want to assign parts to read along with the livestream. This is a great way to keep children engaged. You may want to consider splitting your “group” in half and alternating reading aloud each paragraph.
- Silence cell phones or tend to things that have the potential to disrupt your prayer time.

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Gathering We take a few moments to quiet our hearts.

Introduction

[All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader begins.]

Leader: God, + come to our assistance.

ALL: Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn *Better Is One Day*

How lovely is Your dwelling place,
Oh Lord Almighty
My soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied,
within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

**Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere**

One thing I ask and I would seek,
to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells

My heart and flesh cry out,
For You the living God
Your spirit's water for my soul
I've tasted and I've seen,
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You

Psalm Psalm 27: Keeping faith in time of peril

Leader: *The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?*

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

When evil-doers draw near
to devour my flesh,
it is they, my enemies and foes,
who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me
my heart would not fear.
Though war break out against me
even then would I trust.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savor the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

For there he keeps me safe in his tent
in the day of evil.
He hides me in the shelter of his tent,
on a rock he sets me safe.

And now my head shall be raised
above my foes who surround me
and I shall offer within his tent
a sacrifice of joy.
I will sing and make music for the Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

***ALL: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.***

ALL: The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

Silence We sit in sacred silence for a few moments to allow our hearts to listen to the voice of the Spirit.

Psalm Psalm 27 (continued)

Leader: *I long to look on you, O Lord; do not turn your face from me.*

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
 have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
 ‘Seek his face.’

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
 hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
 you have been my help.

Do not abandon or forsake me,
 O God my help!
Though father and mother forsake me,
 the Lord will receive me.

Instruct me, Lord, in your way;
 on an even path lead me.
When they lie in ambush protect me
 from my enemy’s greed.
False witnesses rise against me,
 breathing out fury.

I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness
 in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
 Hope in the Lord!

Glory to the Father and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit:

***ALL: as it was in the beginning, is now,
 and will be forever. Amen.***

ALL: I long to look on you, O Lord; do not turn your face from me.

Silence

Psalm-prayer

Leader: Father, you protect and strengthen those who hope in you; you heard the cry of your Son and kept him safe in your tent in the day of evil. Grant that your servants who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness in the land of the living. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Canticle Colossians 1: Christ the firstborn of all creation and firstborn from the dead

Leader: *He is the first-born of all creation; in every way the primacy is his.*

Let us give thanks to the Father
for having made you worthy
to share the lot of the saints
in light.

He rescued us
from the power of darkness
and brought us
into the kingdom of his beloved Son.
Through him we have redemption,
the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the first-born of all creatures.
In him everything in heaven and on earth was created,
things visible and invisible.

All were created through him;
all were created for him.
He is before all else that is.
In him everything continues in being.

It is he who is head of the body, the church;
he who is the beginning,
the first-born of the dead,
so that primacy may be his in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him
and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person,
both on earth and in the heavens,
making peace through the blood of his cross.

Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

***ALL: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.***

ALL: He is the first-born of all creation; in every way the primacy is his.

Reading James 1: 22, 25

You must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. But the man who looks steadily at the perfect law of freedom and makes that his habit – not listening and then forgetting, but actively putting it into practice – will be happy in all that he does.

Reflection

Short Responsory

Leader: Redeem me, Lord, and show me your mercy.

ALL: Redeem me, Lord, and show me your mercy.

Leader: Do not cast me away with sinners.

ALL: Redeem me, Lord, and show me your mercy.

Leader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Redeem me, Lord, and show me your mercy.

Canticle Magnificat: My soul rejoices in the Lord

Leader: *The Almighty has done great things for me; holy is his name.*

**I will lift my voice, I will raise my hands
To the one who is the great I am!
My soul proclaims the greatness of His name,
And my spirit will rejoice in God my Savior!**

He has looked upon me in His love,
And my name will be forever blessed.
For the Lord, who is mighty, has done great things for me
My soul proclaims, "Holy is His name!"

His mercy flows through every generation
On those who follow in fear
He has scattered the proud and cast the mighty from their thrones
The meek and the lowly are exalted!

He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich he sends away.
He has given help to Israel, remembering his mercy!

ALL: The Almighty has done great things for me; holy is his name.

Prayers and intercessions

Leader: In all that we do, let the name of the Lord be praised, for he surrounds his
chosen people with boundless love. Let our prayer rise up to him:

ALL: Lord, show us your love.

Leader: Remember your Church, Lord: keep her from every evil and let her grow to the
fullness of your love.

ALL: Lord, show us your love.

Leader: Let the nations recognize you as the one true God, and Jesus Christ as the
Messiah whom you sent.

ALL: Lord, show us your love.

Leader: Grant prosperity to our neighbors; give them life and happiness forever.

ALL: Lord, show us your love.

Leader: Console those who are burdened with oppressive work and daily hardships;
preserve the dignity of workers.

ALL: Lord, show us your love.

Leader: Open wide the doors of your compassion to those who have died today, and in
your mercy receive them into your kingdom.

ALL: Lord, show us your love.

Leader: For what else shall we pray? (Type your intentions in the comments section.)
And for these, we pray,

ALL: Lord, show us your love.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Prayer

Leader: Lord, support us as we pray,
protect us day and night,
so that we who under your guiding hand live in a world of change
may always draw strength from you,
with whom there is no shadow of alteration.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

Dismissal

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth wishing each other peace.