

3rd Tuesday Prayers 15 April, 2026

Opening

Leader Behold, now is the acceptable time;

People **Now is the day of salvation.**

L Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

P **That the light of your face may shine on us.**

L May your justice shine like the sun;

P **And may the poor be lifted up.**

A word of introduction:

L: The disciple asks their teacher, "What can I do to attain God?"

The teacher answers by asking, "What can you do to make the sun rise?"

The disciple says indignantly, "Then why are you giving us all these methods of prayer?"

And the teacher replies, "To make sure you're awake when the sun rises."

We welcome you to gather for a time of contemplation and encounter with God through prayer. Each time we meet, we will participate in an exercise in prayer; and then, aided by the Spirit, we will share our pleas for ourselves, our world, and those in need.

An exercise in prayer:

Our exercise tonight will be to open our hearts and our ears to listen and ponder words of Holy Scripture. We will listen to the first 4 verses of the famous Beatitudes, preached by Jesus. We will take turns reading one verse at a time and then pausing in silence to "hear" how the words are speaking to us.

___ [1] Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [silence]

___ [2] Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. [silence]

___ [3] Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. [silence]

___ [4] Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
[silence]

L: *How can listening help us in our praying? What did you "hear" in the silence?*

[brief conversation among the participants.]

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Prayers

L: At this time, let us gather up our intercessions—our PLEAS—to ask God’s power, guidance and healing on behalf of ourselves and others.

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord

P Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord

P Lord, have mercy.

Individuals share petitions

For _____ [and ending with] Let us pray to the Lord

People reply to each petition **Lord, have mercy.**

P Lord’s Prayer

Blessing and depart in peace

L Father in heaven for Jesus’ sake, stir up in us the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm our faith, guide our lives, empower us in our serving, give us patience in suffering, and bring us to everlasting life.

P Amen

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Scripture passages

+ You, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us, O LORD our God. (Jeremiah 14:9)

+ Do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” Indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the dominion and the righteousness of God, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow. (Matthew 6:31-34)

+ Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

+ Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears. (John 14:27)

+ 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. (Romans 8:38-39)

+ It is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But 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. (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

+ Humble yourselves under God’s mighty hand, so that God may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on the one who cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion, your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist the devil, steadfast in your faith. (1 Peter 5:6-9a)

+ There will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:5)

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And the teacher replies, “To make sure you’re awake when the sun rises.”

There are days when I go and look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the one hundred-and-first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before.

Some monks, who had an overly spiritualized approach to prayer, went to see Abba Lucious. The abba asked them, “What is your manual work?”

They said, “We do not touch manual work, but as the apostle says, we pray without ceasing.”

Abba asked them if they did not eat, and they replied that they did. “So,” he said to them, “when you are eating, who prays for you then?” He asked if they did not sleep, and they replied they did. And he said to them, “When you are asleep, who prays for you then?” They could not find any answer to give him.

Abba Lucious said to them, “Forgive me, but you do not act as you speak. I will show you how, while doing my manual work, I will pray without interruption. I sit down with God, soaking my reeds and plaiting my ropes, and I say, ‘God have mercy on me; according to your great goodness and according to the multitude of your mercies, save me from my sins.’”

So Abba asked them if this were not prayer, and they replied that it was. Then he said to them, “So when I have spent the whole day working and praying, making thirteen pieces of money more or less, I put two pieces of money outside the door and I pay for my food with the rest of the money. The one who takes the two pieces of money prays for me when I am eating and when I am sleeping; so by the grace of God, I fulfill the precept to pray without ceasing.”

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Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. Give me peace in my mind and joy in my heart.

By this shall all people know you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am...

Be still and know that I...

Be still and know that...

Be still and know...

Be still and...

Be still...

Be...

Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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Exercise: If Christ came for a visit, and you went for a walk, what might you want to discuss? And what 's keeping you from doing it?

Romans 8:26

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.

Mother Theresa:

The fruit of silence is prayer

The fruit of prayer is faith

The fruit of faith is love

The fruit of love is service

The fruit of service is peace.

Confirmation blessing:

Father in heaven for Jesus' sake, stir up in us the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm our faith, guide our lives, empower us in our serving, give us patience in suffering, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.