



Evening Prayer: Wednesday of Lent Week 5

March 29, 2023

(Leader: Before we begin, are there names to add to the prayer list?)

Opening

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

All: The light no darkness can overcome.

Leader: Stay with us Lord, for it is evening.

All: And the day is almost over.

Leader: Let the light scatter the darkness.

All: And illumine your church.

Psalm Reading Psalm 143

- ¹ Lord, hear my prayer,
listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness
come to my relief.
- ² Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.
- ³ The enemy pursues me,
he crushes me to the ground;
he makes me dwell in the darkness
like those long dead.
- ⁴ So my spirit grows faint within me;
my heart within me is dismayed.
- ⁵ I remember the days of long ago;
I meditate on all your works
and consider what your hands have done.
- ⁶ I spread out my hands to you;
I thirst for you like a parched land.^[a]

⁷ Answer me quickly, Lord;
my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.
⁸ Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life.
⁹ Rescue me from my enemies, Lord,
for I hide myself in you.
¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;
may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.

¹¹ For your name's sake, Lord, preserve my life;
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.
¹² In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;
destroy all my foes,
for I am your servant.

Psalm Response

Leader: Sing for joy, God's chosen ones.

All: Give him the praise that is due.

Second Reading Matthew 22:23-33

²³ That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. ²⁴ "Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him. ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. ²⁷ Finally, the woman died. ²⁸ Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"

²⁹ Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. ³⁰ At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. ³¹ But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'^[a]? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

³³ When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world".

All: Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.

Gospel Canticle (all but Leader and Reader should mute their audio)

Leader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

Reader and All: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

L: For you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

R/A: From whom this day all generations will call me blessed.

L: You, the Almighty, have done great things for me,

R/A: And holy is your name.

L: You have mercy on those who fear you.

R/A: From generation to generation.

L: You have shown strength with your arm

R/A: And scattered the proud in their conceit,

L: Casting down the mighty from their thrones

R/A: And lifting up the lowly.

L: You have filled the hungry with good things

R/A: And sent the rich away empty.

L: You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,

R/A: To remember your promise of mercy,

L: The promise made to our forebears,

R/A: To Abraham and his children forever.

Prayers

Leader: Let us take a minute to prepare ourselves for this part of our time together.

(Allow a time of silence, then say: "I will begin with my own prayer. We will each conclude our own prayer with "Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer".)

Leader: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously protect us tonight. For into your hands, we commend ourselves, our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us pray (all but the leader should mute their audio)

All: Our Father, who art in heaven...

Blessing

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: The peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

Adapted from *Bread for the Day: Daily Bible Readings and Prayers | Year A 2023*