

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,
neither death nor life can separate us from your love:
grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth,
and in heaven rejoice with all your saints
who ceaselessly proclaim your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Prophet Daniel,*Chapter 7 beginning at Verse 1*

¹ In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ² I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³ and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵ As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶ I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷ "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever - forever and ever."

[NRSV Daniel 7:1-3,15-18]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149

- ¹ O praise the Lord, and sing to the Lord a new song:
O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.
- ² Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:
let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

- ³ Let them praise him in the dance:
let them sing his praise with timbrel and with harp.
- ⁴ For the Lord takes delight in his people:
he adorns the meek with his salvation.
- ⁵ Let his faithful ones exult in his glory:
let them sing for joy upon their beds.
- ⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their mouths:
and a two-edged sword in their hands,
- ⁷ To execute vengeance on the nations:
and chastisement upon the peoples,
- ⁸ To bind their kings in chains:
and their nobles with fetters of iron,
- ⁹ To visit upon them the judgement that is decreed:
such honour belongs to all his faithful servants.
Praise the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to Ephesians,

Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 11

¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly

places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
[NRSV Ephesians 1:11-23]

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,

Chapter 6 beginning at verse 20

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

[NRSV John 11:32-44]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

Sentence

Blessed are you when people hate and revile and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven.