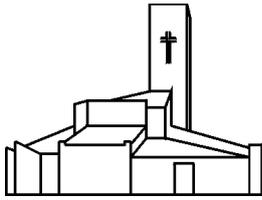


Daily prayer November 2017



St Benedict's Church, Northampton

Serving Briar Hill, Camp Hill, East Hunsbury & West Hunsbury

Daily Prayer THEME: WAITING



NOVEMBER 2017

The Lord's Prayer

[Traditional Version]

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. For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, for ever
and ever. Amen.

[Contemporary Version]

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial, and deliver
us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.

Amen.

A Prayer of St. Benedict

O gracious and Holy Father,
Please give me:
Intellect to understand you,
Diligence to seek you,
Wisdom to find you,
A spirit to know you,
A heart to meditate upon you,
Ears to hear you, Eyes to see you,
A tongue to proclaim you,
A way of life, pleasing to you,
And perseverance to look for you;
Through the power of the spirit of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Wednesday 1st All Saint's Day

Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

Vast numbers were sealed with the sign of the Living God



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." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "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.

We pray, for guidance of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live our lives as examples to others, that they too seek a life with Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, Amen.

**Thursday 2nd Commemoration of the Faithful departed.
(All Soul's Day)**

**Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9 A vision of hope for the future, when
God will restore his people to happiness**



On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

We pray, for those we have lost, who now live in eternity with you. We ask for comfort as we mourn those we love and miss. **Lord, in your mercy, Amen.**

Friday 3rd Reading: Romans 9: God's Election of Israel

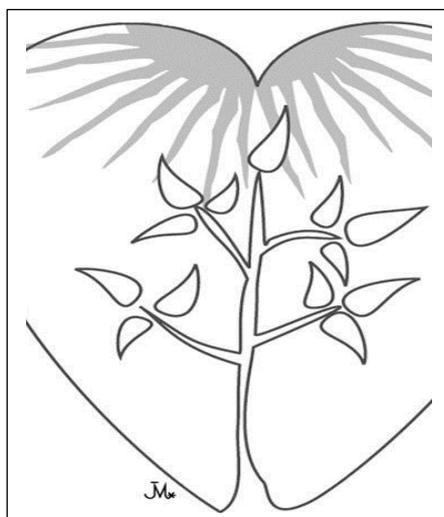


I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

We pray, for guidance to recognise those who are not truthful about many things. Who lie, lest of all, about Our Father and His Holy Son. Help us to keep our eyes and ears open, that those who preach your word, are the true saints of Christ. **Lord in your mercy, Amen**

Saturday 4th

Reading: Romans 9: God's Election of Israel



It is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel, and not all of Abraham's children are his true descendants; but 'It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named after you.' This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants. For this is what the promise said, 'About this time I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.' Nor is that all; something similar happened to Rebecca when she had conceived children by one husband, our ancestor Isaac. Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might continue, not by works but by his call) she was told, 'The elder shall serve the younger.'

We pray, for your church; for leaders, both lay and licensed. For those who lead home groups, Bible study groups. Keep us focused as we take the word of God outside the church building, so others may see your love and mercy that surrounds the whole of creation. Fill our hearts with flower of love and truth. **Lord, in your mercy, Amen.**

Sunday 5th 4th Before Advent

Reading: Isaiah 2 The Future House of God



The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. 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 he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

We pray, we are all children of God, all part of the one family. We ask for tolerance to understand and except difference. Help us to be tolerant to the teacher, the grocer, the doctor, the factory worker, and all those we meet or work with who are different in creed and culture. Make us worthy to be part of the family of God. **Lord, in your mercy, Amen.**

Monday 6th

Reading: Psalm 122 Song of Praise and Prayer for Jerusalem



I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. For there the thrones for judgement were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.’ For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

We pray, for the gift of music and song. We ask that those who attend now and then, find joy and inspiration to want to know more. Help us as we sing your praise, to encourage all around to find the gift of faith in our songs and hymns of praise and glory. **Lord, in your mercy, Amen.**

Tuesday 7th Reading: James 5 The Prayer of Faith



Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore, 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. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

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.

We pray, for eternal trust and faith in you. We give thanks for modern medicine; doctors, carers, charity workers. We continue to pray that the whole of mankind will see the light of your love and turn to you, in faith with love. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Wednesday 8th Reading: James 5 – Patience in Suffering



Be patient, therefore, 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.

Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

We pray, for those who suffer in body or mind. Strengthen our faith in prayer; as you suffered on the cross, you thought of others. As we bring the stricken to your attention, you give means to us to heal. Give strength to those who heal, and those who wait. **Lord in your mercy**

Thursday 9th Reading: Daniel 3 The Golden Image



King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

We pray, for help not to be distracted by material things that mean nothing and won't bring us salvation. Help us not to be consumed with greed for artificial things of life. Fill us with your spirit, and open our mind to the gift of faith. **Lord, in your mercy**

Friday 10th Reading: Daniel 3 The Golden Image



When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, the herald proclaimed aloud, 'You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.' Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

We pray, for those who are distracted by wealth and materialism. Our place on earth, is to help each other, the weak, the vulnerable, the very needy. **Lord, in your mercy**

Saturday 11th Reading: Luke 16 The Rich Man and Lazarus



‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.”

We pray, for those who are poor and vulnerable. Help us as we go about our day to open our eyes and see what is before our eyes. Look to those on the side of the street, those who are vulnerable. Help them, the best way you can. **Lord, in your mercy**

Sunday 12th 3rd Before Advent

Reading: Luke 16 The Rich Man and Lazarus



But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”

We Pray, for righteousness for all who believe. As we live this holy life amongst secular evil forces that stop us at every turn, strengthen us and give us courage to trust in the one true God, that you will always be with us to protect, inspire, guide. **Lord in your mercy**

Monday 13th

Reading: Psalm 145 The Greatness and the Goodness of God



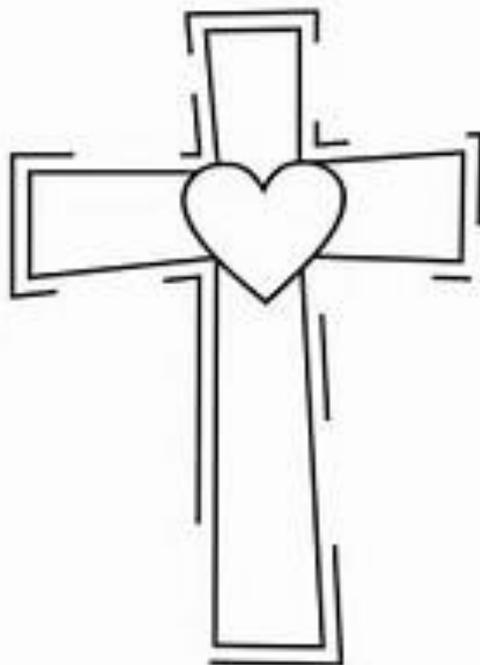
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I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

We pray, for the world that all creatures know your enduring love for ever and always. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Tuesday 14th

Reading: Psalm 145 The Greatness and the Goodness of God



The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Almighty and everlasting Father, your love and mercy is true and never ending. Righteousness, goodness and greatness are all part of your creation. Help us seek the righteousness and goodness that are ours by inheritance, that we may show the world your love and mercy. **Lord, in your mercy**

Wednesday 15th Wisdom 1:1-7

Think of the Lord constantly, and seek his guidance truly



Love righteousness, you rulers of the earth, think of the Lord in goodness and seek him with sincerity of heart; because he is found by those who do not put him to the test, and manifests himself to those who do not distrust him. For perverse thoughts separate people from God, and when his power is tested, it exposes the foolish; because wisdom will not enter a deceitful soul, or dwell in a body enslaved to sin. For a holy and disciplined spirit will flee from deceit, and will leave foolish thoughts behind, and will be ashamed at the approach of unrighteousness. For wisdom is a kindly spirit, but will not free blasphemers from the guilt of their words; because God is witness of their inmost feelings, and a true observer of their hearts, and a hearer of their tongues. Because the spirit of the Lord has filled the world, and that which holds all things together knows what is said.

We pray, Christ desires the salvation of everyone, we approach Him with confidence that He will have mercy on those who live a life without him, but God loves all his children and will be redeemed on the day they return home. **Lord, in your mercy**

Thursday 16th Reading: Wisdom 7:22-8:1

Wisdom reaches from end to end and governs all things well



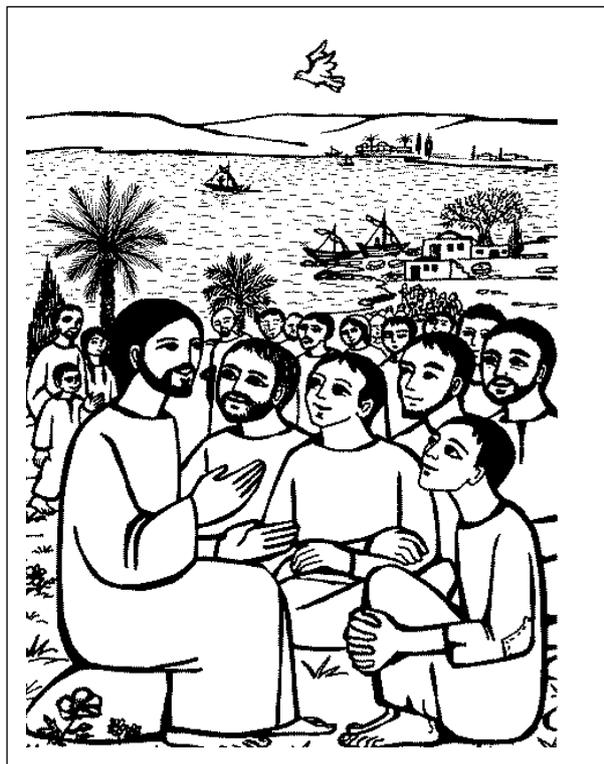
There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent, pure, and

altogether subtle. Wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. She is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his 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. She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

We pray, for those who are victims of abuse. Help them to have confidence and speak to their friends. Openness of hearts and minds and a plea to our Father that they will regain trust in the Lord, and his mercy. **Lord, in your mercy**

Friday 17th Reading: Luke 17:26-37

The Son of Man comes suddenly. Be prepared



Jesus said to his disciples, “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking, and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed all of them. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day that Lot left Sodom, it rained

fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed all of them—it will be like that on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, anyone on the housetop who has belongings in the house must not come down to take them away; and likewise anyone in the field must not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife. Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it. I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken and the other left.” Then they asked him, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

We pray, for those who are prisoners of people trafficking. That are victims of unimagined terrors. Lord, help them be strong, and whether they believe or not, send you Holy Spirit to inspire them to feel your presence. Lord, work through the heart so their captors that they may feel the desire to show mercy. **Lord in your mercy**

Saturday 18th Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, etc

The virtuous and industrious wife an Israelite husband hoped to find

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.

We pray, Holy Father, we bring before you those who are needy of physical and spiritual food. As we travel on our journey, open our eyes to the poor on the side of the road, those who are sick and need help, or those who just need a shoulder. Lord, like you, we hold out our hand to the sick, the vulnerable and the needy. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Sunday 19th 2nd Before Advent

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Paul admits that he does not know when the second coming will take place. But be vigilant!



Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For 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.

We pray, as we move closer to the time we wait in hope and anticipation, inspire us and encourage us, to work towards grace and truth, that, like the good bridesmaids we will be ready for the coming of our precious Lord. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Monday 20th

Reading: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15 etc

The Jews suffering under persecution by Antiochus Epiphanes

From them came forth a sinful root, Antiochus Epiphanes, son of King Antiochus; he had been a hostage in Rome. He began to reign in the one hundred thirty-seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks. In those days certain renegades arose in Israel and misled many, saying, "Let us make a covenant with the Gentiles around us, for since we separated from them many disasters have come upon us." This proposal pleased them, and some of the people eagerly went to the king, who authorized them to observe the ordinances of the Gentiles. So they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem, according to Gentile custom, and removed the marks of circumcision, and abandoned the holy covenant. They joined with the Gentiles and sold themselves to do evil. Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, and that all should give up their particular customs. All the Gentiles accepted the command of the king. Many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion; they sacrificed to idols and profaned the sabbath.

We pray, for our royal family, for leaders of countries, as they have power, help them find a way towards a war free world. open their hearts that they rule with honesty and truth, and with guidance from our Holy Spirit with Christ in their hearts. **Lord, in your mercy**

Tuesday 21st

Reading: Zechariah 2:14-17

Rejoice, for God will come and dwell in your midst

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.

The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all people, before the Lord; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

We pray, for discipline to exercise and get ready for the coming of joy. We have a time of meditation to come, as we prepare ourselves for the wait, strengthen us, inspire us, enfold us, so we will be ready to wait.

Lord, in your mercy

Wednesday 22nd

Reading 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31

The mother of seven sons urges them to die rather than betray the covenant

It happened also that seven brothers and their mother were arrested and were being compelled by the king, under torture with whips and thongs, to partake of unlawful swine's flesh.

The mother was especially admirable and worthy of honourable. Although she saw her seven sons perish within a single day, she bore it with good courage because of her hope in the Lord. She encouraged each of them in the language of their ancestors. Filled with a noble spirit, she reinforced her woman's reasoning with a man's courage, and said to them, "I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you life and breath, nor I who set in order the elements within each of you. Therefore the Creator of the world, who shaped the beginning of humankind and devised the origin of all things, will in his mercy give life and breath back to you again, since you now forget yourselves for the sake of his laws."

We pray, Lord, we are often ridiculed and made fun of because of our faith, but not physically tortured. We pray and ask for rest, for the souls who stand up to pain and suffering in order to keep true to you Lord. Let them feel you with them at their time of martyrdom. . **Lord, in your mercy,**

Thursday 23rd

Reading: Luke 19:41-44

Jesus is upset over the forthcoming destruction of Jerusalem

As Jesus came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

We pray, remove the veil from our eyes, that we shall see what is happening in the world, what is happening to our Lord and his Word. Give us courage to fight for you, to believe in you whatever happens. To spread the Holy Word, in non-caring world. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Friday 24th

Reading: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59

The temple is purified and rededicated, at the first ever celebration of the feast of Hannukah

Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred forty-eighth year, they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built. At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. All the people fell on their faces and worshipped and blessed Heaven, who had prospered them. So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and joyfully offered burnt offerings; they offered a sacrifice of well-being and a thanksgiving offering. They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests, and fitted them with doors. There was very great joy among the people, and the disgrace brought by the Gentiles was removed.

Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.

We pray, Christ our Lord, you did not want burnt offering or blood sacrifice. You desire sacrifice through our hearts of our souls. We give you today our hearts and seek that you live within us for ever. **Lord, in your mercy**

Saturday 25th

Reading: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13

Antiochus attributes his collapse to his persecution of the Jews

King Antiochus was going through the upper provinces when he heard that Elymais in Persia was a city famed for its wealth in silver and gold. Its temple was very rich, containing golden shields, breastplates, and weapons left there by Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian king who first reigned over the Greeks. So he came and tried to take the city and plunder it, but he could not because his plan had become known to the citizens and they withstood him in battle. So he fled and in great disappointment left there to return to Babylon.

Then someone came to him in Persia and reported that the armies that had gone into the land of Judah had been routed; that Lysias had gone first with a strong force, but had turned and fled before the Jews; that the Jews had grown strong from the arms, supplies, and abundant spoils that they had taken from the armies they had cut down; that they had torn down the abomination that he had erected on the altar in Jerusalem; and that they had surrounded the sanctuary with high walls as before, and also Beth-zur, his town.

We pray, for protection against forces which may distract us from the truth. Help us to be courageous to say 'NO' when someone or something tried to draw us from your love and mercy. **Lord, in your mercy**

Sunday 26th Next before Advent - Christ the King

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

At the end of the world, all enemies will be overcome and Christ will rule as universal king

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

We pray, for the King of Glory, King of Peace, to inspire us with the love, peace and mercy that He instils in us to give to others. Lord, we rejoice in your coming and in your sovereignty in all the world. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Monday 27th

Reading: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20

Daniel and his companions are more respected than all magicians and counsellors in Babylon

In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

The Lord let King Jehoiakim of Judah fall into his power, as well as some of the vessels of the house of God. These he brought to the land of Shinar, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his gods. Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility, young men without physical defect and handsome, versed in every branch of wisdom, endowed with knowledge and insight, and competent to serve in the king's palace; they were to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine. They were to be educated for three years, so that at the end of that time they could be stationed in the king's court. Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah.

We pray, for your church, for the righteousness of those who lead, to make all believers strong in faith, courage to go against those who appease all that is good. Make us strong, true and bold. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Tuesday 28th

Reading: Luke 21:5-11

Don't be misled about the end of the world

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

We pray, we fear not what comes because we know whatever happens you are with us Lord, we know you will protect your own. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Wednesday 29th

Reading: Luke 21:12-19

The disciples of Jesus will be persecuted, yet not a hair of their head will be harmed

Jesus said to his disciples, "Before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

We pray, for all those who are persecuted in your name. Pray for the souls lost through their courage and commitment to your word. For those in China, Japan, all the countries where Christians must hide their beliefs. Fill them with courage and hope. **Lord, in your mercy.**

Thursday 30th

Reading: Matthew 4:18-22

The call of the apostles, including Andrew.

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

We pray, all are called, but only a few are chosen. Lord, as we hear your word, your voice in our heads, let us respond with joy and follow the gift of faith and salvation. We pray for those who hear but do not respond. The hope is someday, the whole world will hear and respond to your call. **Lord, in your mercy**