

Confession

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We diminish our respect and awe of You by not putting our relationship with you on the top of our priority list. We relegate You to being our god of convenient comfort rather than Creator of the Cosmos, and so we limit the power you have in our lives.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We let other voices and speak to us of fulfillment, hope and peace, tempting us to turn away from the truth you offer us. And so, we have doubted your presence, your power and your promise.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We have shut our ears to your call to love and serve others with the same compassionate love and service Christ offers us. We have not been diligent in staying keenly aware of how we can be a source of comfort, hope and sustenance to those who suffer, despair and are deprived of what they need. We have found security in protecting our abundant blessings.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We misuse and abuse the role you have given us in and over creation. We exploit and squander the earth's resources without inconveniencing ourselves with consideration for the sustainability of life in the future. We assume the power of gods, but fail in seeking the Wisdom of God in the use of our power, focusing too much on our satisfaction in this moment rather than comprehending the full scope of our actions. We privilege our lives over the lives of other creatures without respect for the depth of the interconnectedness of all life.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We do not always own our own problems, nor do we take enough responsibility for working to solve them. We scapegoat, we make excuses, we get distracted. We do not bring them to you and open ourselves to the Spirit's guidance through unexpected voices and resources. We become discontented because we resign to empty contentment. We default to following the norm rather than clinging to the distinction of being a Child of God.

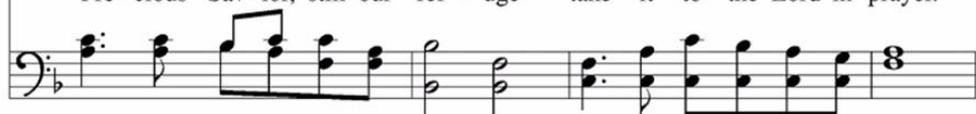
C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.



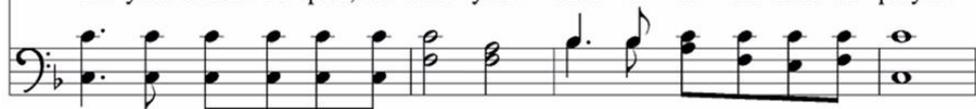
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav-y - lad - en, cum-bere'd with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.



Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray: Heavenly Father,

C: you graciously bend your ear to our voices, promising that you not only listen to our prayers, but desire to hear them. Sustain our confidence in your care for our needs. Inspire us to offer our thanksgiving for the blessings you give. Encourage us to bring our laments. Affirm that all you ask of our prayers is that we bring the truth about ourselves. Give us the hope that though we may feel that our prayers seem unanswered, you are responding in ways that we may not comprehend in the moment. We ask this in the name of the one who taught us the power of prayer, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

First Lesson

James 5

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.

L: The Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 5

During his Sermon on the Mount Jesus preached: And whenever you may pray, you will not be like the hypocrites; for they love to be standing and praying in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be dazzling people. Most certainly, I say to you, they receive their wages. But whenever you may pray, go into your inner room and having shut the door, pray to your Father cryptically; and your Father who is seeing cryptically will reimburse you.

But when you are praying, you may not use the meaningless words repetitively as the Gentiles do; for they think that in their wordiness they will be heard. You may not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way:

Our Father in the heavens,

Sanctify Your name!

Bring Your kingdom!

Do your will: as in heaven, so on earth!

Give us our daily bread today!

And forgive! us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the temptation,

but rescue us from the evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
 OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

HF we give you thanks that you have invited us into a relationship where we can communicate with you in prayer. Send your Spirit that we will be inspired to build that habit of reaching out to you, to nurture and sustain our relationship, to let you know what it is we need out of your love for us, to make it clear to you and our neighbors that we are your devoted people. Lord in your mercy,

God of all creating, we marvel and wonder at what you have made, most of the time, but there are times when we are afraid and frustrated by what you have created. As we now attempt to limit, avoid and contain the virus that is sickening so many and taking the lives of the vulnerable, we pray that you bring your healing presence. Give us the discipline to do what is wise. Give us the wisdom to manage the crisis. And give us the patience to endure what is yet to come.

God of all nations, even as the world struggles together with this pandemic we still hear of violence and hate between peoples and engendered by governments. We call on your powerful arm to bring peace where our strength has failed. Save us from ourselves.

God of wholeness, bring your healing to those on our prayer list and those we lift before you now . . .

Into your hands, O lord

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

