

Prayers of the People - Christmas Eve

Adapted from litany 6 (p.115)

(As we sit or kneel in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "**Lord, have mercy.**")

As we rejoice in the coming of Jesus our Lord and Saviour, we pray that the Church may be continually reborn We particularly pray for *Fred our Primate, David our bishop*, and for all Christians worshipping you this Christmas. Help us share the humility of the manger, the adoration of the shepherds, and the love of the Holy Family. Let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy.

Restore to new life the places in this world that suffer from conflict and are deaf to the message of peace . . . Bring harmony where there is strife between nations and where people are divided by suspicion and bitterness In particular we lift up Elizabeth our Queen, the leaders of the nations, and all in authority. Let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy.

We pray for the families and friends with whom we celebrate this happy time. . . . Give us true love, unselfish desires and grateful hearts. . . . We pray especially for the children, for their joy at Christmas. . . Create in our *community of <parish>*, and all those who live in *<community>*, love that will lead poor and rich, elderly and young, and men and women to the love of God. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

We pray for those who cannot feel the joy of Christmas, through the burden of sickness, bereavement or other distress. . . Lord comfort with your presence all who are separated at Christmas from those they love. . . Heal those who have no peace within themselves . . . Bring the light of Christ into their lives. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, we lift up in prayer: *prayer list people and those silently or aloud that you hold on your hearts, <some silence here>*. We trust Lord that you will act in their lives . . . Bless the homes where there is sickness or any other trouble. Bring healing to all who are ill or in pain . . . Give peace to all unquiet minds and troubled spirits. Guide and guard our families and all others with whom we share our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on the departed who have shared with Christ human birth and infancy and also the death of the body. . . Make their joy complete with you, where there is neither birth nor death but abundant life without end. **<In particular we hold up ***>**. . . Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Closing Prayer

Eternal God, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, so that we may be faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Year A – Thanksgiving

[With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, responding to **Lord in your mercy** with:
Hear our prayer]

Strengthen your Church to be the body of Christ at work in the world ... Heal our divisions and imperfections, make whole this visible body so that it may reflect truly reflect his glorious body ... Give Grace to ministers of the gospel in proclaiming the message of the Resurrection. In particular, we raise up Fred our Primate, David our Bishop, and all our ministers and ministries.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

As you have blessed us with abundant grace, keep us faithful in the offering of the word and sacrament, knowing that all things come from you and return to you ... Send out your labourers to gather the harvest of the world, that all may know the riches of your love.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who work that others might be fed, for those that bring in the harvest of the land and the sea ... We pray for those employed in the processing and transport of food ... Grant a more just distribution of the goods of the world.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for all those who are weak or sorry in spirit who celebrate alone, or without loved ones this Thanksgiving. Sustain them Lord and grant them the joy of faith brought to fruition in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are ill or sick that they may be healed in the power of Jesus' name. In our parish we hold up <names> in prayer for your gracious consideration.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Give to us, our families and friends, grateful hearts for all your bounty and a concern for the needs of others. Strengthen us Lord as we live our lives as a witness to your love.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

O God, you desire that all the peoples of the world should be one human family, living together in harmony, grant that our parish, by its worship and its witness, may help to hasten the day when your will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen

Prayers of the People Proper 28A

Adapted from litany 6 (p.115)

(As we <stand, sit, kneel> in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "**Lord, have mercy.**")

As we look for the coming of Christ, we pray that our Church on earth may always be ready to become one with your Church ... May we fulfill in all our works together the commandment of your love ... We particularly pray for *Fred our Primate David our bishop, <name> our priest*, and for all Christians: that they may be faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to them. Let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy.

Draw all people closer to the sharing of love that overcomes all differences. Draw into your service all in our community that may be used for the coming of your kingdom ... In particular we pray for Elizabeth our Queen, for the leaders of the nations, and all in authority: that your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives in your creation. Let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy.

Shine your love on us, our families and friends, that we may live as children of the light and ministers of your grace ... Help us to live together in love as true neighbours of one another. We pray for the *community of <name>* and those who live here, the poor and the rich, the elderly and the young, men and women: that you will show your love to everyone. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Where business is done in the world, drive out dishonesty and self-seeking ... Bring to all people the knowledge that this world is not the end ... While working for the present good, let all eyes be lifted to the future glory of your Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on those who have not fulfilled the best that is in them, hindered by laziness or circumstance or self-doubt .. Incite them to be active in doing your will ... Gather into your fold the lost sheep of this world ... Hear those who desire to know you but cannot speak their need. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, we lift up in prayer: *prayer list people* and those silently or aloud that you hold on your hearts, <some silence here> We trust Lord that you will act in their lives. ... Bless the homes where there is sickness or any other trouble. Bring healing to all who are ill or in pain ... Give peace to all unquiet minds and troubled spirits. Guide and guard our families and all others with whom we share our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

We pray for those who have come to their last day and passed into new life. Confident that waking or sleeping we are with Christ, we pray that we shall be always ready to hear his call. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Closing Prayer

Eternal God, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, so that we may be faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture readings for Proper 28A

First Reading Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷ Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³ Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷ I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ 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! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the

five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."²¹ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."²³ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."²⁶ But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?"²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'