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A photograph showing a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on the pages of an open book. The background is dark, and the lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the hands and the book. The text "mid-day prayer" is overlaid on the left side of the image in a white, serif font.

mid-day
prayer

*An Order of
Prayer During the
Day for Advent*

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THROUGH CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your words have I hidden within my heart,

so that I should not sin against you.

Praise

Saviour eternal,
life of the world unfailing,
light everlasting
and our true redemption.

Taking our humanity
in your loving freedom,
you rescued our lost earth
and filled the world with joy.

By your first advent justify us,
by your second, set us free:
so that when the great light dawns
and you come as judge of all,
we may be robed in immortality
and ready, Lord, to follow
in your footsteps blest,
wherever they may lead.

Psalmody

After the Psalm for the Day the Psalm Prayer may be said.

Sunday: Psalm 82

God stands in the council of heaven *
and gives judgement in the midst
of the gods:

“How long will you judge unjustly, *
and show favour to the wicked?

Save the weak and the orphan; *
defend the humble and needy;

Rescue the weak and the poor; *
deliver them from the power of the
wicked.

They do not know, neither do they
understand; they go about in
darkness;*

all the foundations of the earth are
shaken.

Now I say to you, ‘You are gods, *
and all of you children of the Most
High;

nevertheless, you shall die like
mortals, *

and fall like any prince.’”

Arise, O God, and rule the earth, *
for you shall take all nations for
your own.

Strength of the weak, Defender of the
needy, Rescuer of the poor, deliver us
from the power of wickedness, so that
we may rejoice in your justice now and
forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Monday: Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me
for ever? *

How long will you hide your face
from me?

How long shall I have perplexity in my
mind, and grief in my heart, day after
day? *

How long shall my enemy triumph
over me?

Look upon me and answer me, O Lord
my God; *

give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in
death;

lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed
over this one,” *

and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

But I put my trust in your mercy; *
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

I will sing to the Lord who has dealt with me richly; *

I will praise the name of the Lord Most High.

Loving and merciful God, hear the prayers of those who cry to you, and shine with the light of your presence on those who live in the shadow of death. May we rejoice in your saving help and sing you songs of praise in the name of our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Tuesday: Psalm 14

Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." *

All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good.

The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, *

to see if there is any who is wise, if there is anyone who seeks after God.

Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; *

there is none who does good; no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers *

who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the Lord?

See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.

Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *

but the Lord is their refuge.
Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *

When the Lord restores the fortunes of this people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

God of wisdom and love, without you neither truth nor holiness can survive. Show your mighty presence among us, and make us glad in proclaiming your deliverance in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Wednesday: Psalm 54

Save me, O God, by your name; *
in your might, defend my cause.

Hear my prayer, O God; *

give ear to the words of my mouth.

For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, *

those who have no regard for God.

Behold, God is my helper; *

it is the Lord who sustains my life.

Render evil to those who spy on me; *

in your faithfulness, destroy them.

I will offer you a freewill sacrifice *

and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

For you have rescued me from every trouble, *

and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

God of mercy, hear our prayer and come to our aid, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting we may offer you a pure sacrifice of praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thursday: Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life be
ashamed*
and altogether dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in my
misfortune *
draw back and be disgraced.
Let those who say to me “Aha!” and
gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.
Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad
in you; *
let those who love your salvation
say for ever, “Great is the Lord!”
But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and
grant us peace in our day. In your mercy
keep us free from sin and protect us
from all anxiety, as we wait in joyful
hope for the coming of your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Friday: Psalm 75

We give you thanks, O God, *
we give you thanks,
calling upon your name *
and declaring all your wonderful
deeds.
“I will appoint a time,” says God; *
“I will judge with equity.
Though the earth and all its inhabitants
are quaking, *
I will make its pillars fast.
I will say to the boasters, ‘Boast no
more,’ *
and to the wicked, “Do not toss
your horns;

Do not toss your horns so high, *
nor speak with a proud neck.”
For judgement is neither from the east
nor from the west, *
nor yet from the wilderness of the
mountains.
It is you, O God, who judges; *
you put down one and lift up
another.
For in your hand, O Lord, there is a cup,
full of spiced and foaming wine, which
you pour out, *
and all the wicked of the earth shall
drink and drain the dregs.
But I will rejoice for ever; *
I will sing praises to the God of
Jacob.
You shall break off all the horns of the
wicked; *
but the horns of the righteous shall
be exalted.

O God, when violence threatens and
destruction seems at hand, help us to
remember that you maintain your
cause and still rule your universe
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Saturday: Psalm 85

You have been gracious to your land, O
Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune
of Jacob.
You have forgiven all the iniquity of
your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
You have withdrawn all your fury *
and turned yourself from your
wrathful indignation.
Restore us then, O God our Saviour; *
let your anger depart from us.

Will you be displeased with us for ever? *

Will you prolong your anger from age to age?

Will you not give us life again, *
that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your mercy, O Lord, *
and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying, *
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, *
that your glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before you, *
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

God of grace, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to be our Saviour. Help us to rejoice in our salvation by showing mercy and truth, and by walking in the way of righteousness and peace. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen.

Short Reading

Sunday: Revelation 22.17, 20, 21

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Monday: Isaiah 11.1-4

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Tuesday: Mark 1.1-5

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Wednesday: Luke 12.35-37

Jesus said to his disciples, “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.”

Thursday: Mark 13.34-37

Jesus said to Peter, James, John and Andrew, “It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Friday: Romans 13.11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became

believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Saturday: Luke 1.35, 38

The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Response to the Reading

After the Reading spend a few moments in silent reflection. Then the following is said.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Prayers

Prayers may include these concerns:

- *The Church, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ;*
- *The leaders of the Church, lay and ordained;*

- *The nations, that they may be subject to the rule of God;*
- *Those who are working for justice in the world and*
- *The broken, that they may find God's healing.*

After voicing our own intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, the following may be said.

Jesus, servant of God, you bring justice to the nations: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

You love your people with a faithful love: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

You were lifted up on the cross so that you might draw all people to yourself: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

You bring hope and joy to those who walk in the valley and shadow of death: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

You have liberated us so that we might be free for ever: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

You, O Christ, are our justice, our peace and our redemption: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

The following prayer may be said.

Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after you, and in an affectionate walking with you, every day of our lives; so that when you come, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but

waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious God for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

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.

The Sending Forth

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May the Lord make us ready for his coming in glory. **Amen.**

This Order for Prayer During the Day was adapted from Common Worship: Daily Prayer (Church of England) by the Ven. Dr. Richard Geoffrey Leggett.