

# Mid-Day Prayer – Great Fifty Days

## May 4, 2023

### Call to Worship

In the middle of the day we become weary

**We come to you, O Lord**

We come for rest and refreshment

**Come to us, O Lord**

Restore us as we serve you and your people

**Be with us, O Lord**

### Invocation

#### Dialogue

O God, come to my assistance.

**O Lord, make haste to help me. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Commemoration     **Monica, mother of St. Augustine, died 387**

Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, was born in Northern Africa about 322. Her son, St. Augustine was one of the early prominent leaders in the Christian Church and was the Bishop of Hippo, present day Algeria. Many controversies and heresies were addressed under his leadership. St. Augustine was born in 354 and his mother, Monica, attempted to raise him as a Christian without success. He was baptized in 387 after many of his doubts as a younger man were dispelled through the teaching of St. Ambrose. Monica prayed fervently for him particularly throughout his early years. She rejoiced in his baptism. We commemorate Monica as a model to us of her perseverance in faith and prayer.

Let us pray. Lord God, you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses. Grant that we, encouraged by the example of your servant Monica, may persevere in the course that is set before us, to be living signs of the Gospel and, at the last, with all the saints, to share in your eternal joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Psalm 31**

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.

<sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.

<sup>3</sup>You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

<sup>4</sup>take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.

<sup>5</sup>Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

<sup>6</sup>You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,  
but I trust in the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,  
because you have seen my affliction;

you have taken heed of my adversities,

<sup>8</sup>and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;  
you have set my feet in a broad place.

<sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief,

my soul and body also.

<sup>10</sup>For my life is spent with sorrow,  
and my years with sighing;

my strength fails because of my misery,  
and my bones waste away.

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
a horror to my neighbors,

an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.

<sup>12</sup>I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.

<sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many —  
terror all around! —

as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my God."

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.

<sup>17</sup>Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD,  
for I call on you;

let the wicked be put to shame;  
let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.

<sup>18</sup>Let the lying lips be stilled  
that speak insolently against the righteous  
with pride and contempt.

<sup>19</sup>O how abundant is your goodness  
that you have laid up for those who fear you,  
and accomplished for those who take refuge in you,  
in the sight of everyone!

<sup>20</sup>In the shelter of your presence you hide them  
from human plots;

you hold them safe under your shelter  
from contentious tongues.

<sup>21</sup>Blessed be the LORD,  
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me  
when I was beset as a city under siege.

<sup>22</sup>I had said in my alarm,  
"I am driven far from your sight."

But you heard my supplications  
when I cried out to you for help.

<sup>23</sup>Love the LORD, all you his saints.

The LORD preserves the faithful,  
but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily.  
<sup>24</sup>Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
all you who wait for the LORD.

## **Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.  
<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.  
<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.  
<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"  
<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.  
<sup>11</sup>May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

## **Gloria Patri**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## **Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup>and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## **Reflection**

### **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**

Mighty God of mercy, we give you thanks that at midday you give us a time of rest; may we accept it gratefully and be strengthened by it, to serve you and our neighbor. And we thank you...

for the sustaining goodness of your creation...

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness...

for the gifts of relationship with others...

for the communion of faith in your church...

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. We pray ...

for those who govern nations of the world...

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare...

for all who work for peace and international harmony...

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction...

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land...

God of heaven and earth, help us to live in this world faithfully guided by your love, which manifests itself in our love toward one another. Prepare us for that great morning when your new world is fully revealed. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Benediction**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:

wherever he may send you;

May he guide you through the wilderness: protect

you through the storm;

May he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders

he has shown you;

May he bring you home rejoicing: once again into

our doors.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of

the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**